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Spring 2017

AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

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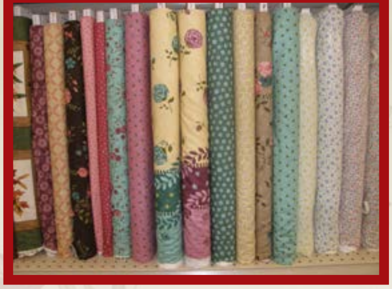

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DUTCH HAVEN

LANCASTER COUNTY LANDMARK

While driving along Route 30 in Lancaster County, you may see a few unfamiliar, if not unique, sites. You may catch a glimpse of some folks dressed a little unusually. You'll probably see a few horse-drawn carriages instead of cars. And, you'll undoubtedly notice the Dutch Haven windmill. This landmark building has been drawing thousands of visitors each week to Lancaster County for the past 67 years. Opening first as a restaurant in 1946, the Dutch Haven operated with great success with a world famous Shoo Fly pie recipe.

Today, the Dutch Haven staple is still "America's Best Shoo Fly Pie." All you have to do is pass through the door and you will be offered a sample taste of this famous pie—warmed and topped with whipped cream, just like it was always served in the restaurant, years ago.

Some 40,000 pies will be sold at the Dutch Haven this year alone. While most of these shoo fly pies are purchased over the counter, some are shipped UPS. Many pies are sold to faithful customers who have been buying them from Dutch Haven for over half a century!

As always at Dutch Haven, the famous pie that was featured in Time magazine is just part of the story. The windmill building now houses one of, if not the best, selections of primitive Amish pine furniture in the area. Corner cupboards, pie safes, chests, and shelves are all available. Hundreds of pieces of Amish woodcrafts fill what once were the dining rooms of this wonderful old building. In addition, thousands of other items from pot holders to copper crafts, T-shirts, small wood crafts, a stunning selection of pottery, and much more make Dutch Haven a true shopping experience.

Visiting Dutch Haven - "the place that made Shoo Fly Pie famous" - will help to make your trip to Pennsylvania Dutch Country even more memorable.

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FREE!

Dutch Haven is Open 7 Days
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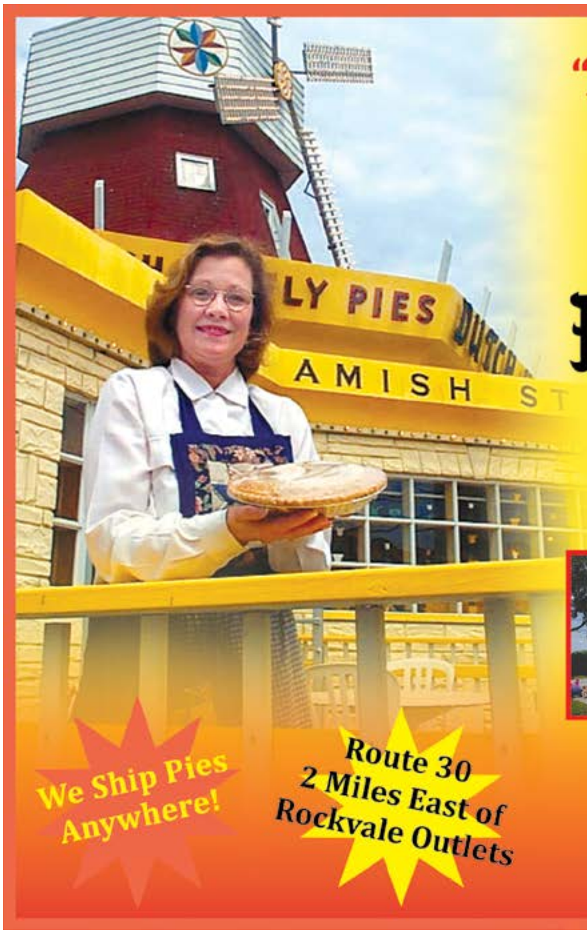

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QuiltWeek is Huge

by Clinton Martin

Doug Tompkins, co-founder of the Esprit clothing company, amassed what many consider the most important collection of Amish quilts in the world. When he bought his first Amish quilts, a Center Diamond and a Sunshine and Shadow, both from Lancaster County, PA's Amish community, he probably didn't realize he was embarking on what would become an amazing journey that would eventually lead to his collection standing at 82 exquisite hand-made quilts. San Francisco's highest fashion maven of the 1970s was smitten by the plain and wholesome color palette of the Amish.

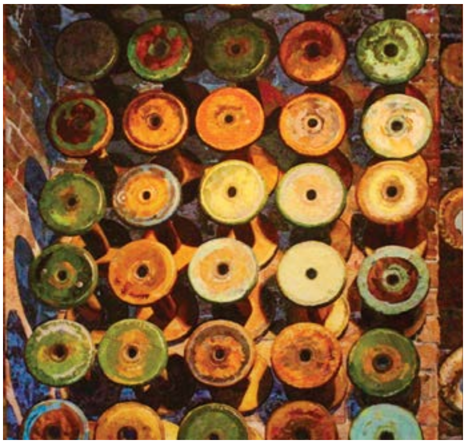
Millions of visitors every year travel Amish Country's back roads on quilt odysseys, and while most aren't famous quilt collectors from California, the hand-made, painstaking artistry of the local quilt community charms people of all walks of life. There is, however, one week every year when Amish Country's quilt scene blooms unlike any other. That is, of course, the American Quilt Society's QuiltWeek.

QuiltWeek is at its core a spectacular quilt show, with hundreds of quilts on display. These range from the most traditional of Amish quilts, to mind bending avant-garde designs, and everything in between. At least 200 of these quilts are competing in juried competitions, with handsome prizes for the winners. The quilts on display are appreciated by anyone who loves color, design, handiwork, creativity, and precision, but there are also numerous classes taught by nationally recognized instructors for those who not only like to view quilts, but also make them. Beginner to advanced quilters will find classes suited to them.

A huge merchant mall is also a popular feature of QuiltWeek, with any number of quilt-related items on sale, and special exhibits promise to broaden the mind of any quilter with curated displays ranging from "New Quilts From an Old Favorite: New York Beauty" from The National Quilt Museum, the Cherrywood Challenge 2016: "The Lion King," the 25th Anniversary Contest: "The Gala of the Unexpected" from The National Quilt Museum, to SAQA's "Made in Europe" and Focus & Fiber's "Quilts by Melissa Sobotka."

QuiltWeek is held at the Lancaster County Convention Center in downtown Lancaster. GPS: 3 East Vine Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603. Or without a GPS, from Highway 30, take the Fruitville Pike exit south and follow directions for "Historic Lancaster." Fruitville Pike will become N. Prince Street. Proceed south and then turn left on King Street. Penn Square will be one block to your right at the next traffic signal. Bear right for the parking entrance.

The event runs March 29 – April 1, 2017. For ticket, class registration and lodging information visit www.quiltweek.com or call 270-898-7903. If you're reading this after April 1st, just mark your calendar for next year's Lancaster QuiltWeek, Mar. 21 – 24, 2018…. Or create your very own QuiltWeek by exploring all the quilt and fabric shops advertising in this issue!



A quilt? A photo? Elements of both! Fiber artist Melissa Sobotka quilts what she captures through her camera lens. QuiltWeek displays 10 years of Sobotka quilts, from her first quilt to the present.

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Antiquing
in Amish Country

Photo courtesy of DiscoverLancaster.com

by Brad Igou

What makes Lancaster County such a great place to "go antiquing?" One obvious answer would be that this area has a rich history going back hundreds of years to the first settlers in the early 1700's. Many of us have stuff in our attics that we have forgotten about. Who knows what may be there waiting for an appearance on "Antiques Roadshow?"

Did you know that the **Adamstown** area alone has over 3,000 antiques dealers, and is known as "Antiques Capital, U.S.A." The many locations stretch out along Route 272, just off Pennsylvania Turnpike Exit 286, such as SHUPP'S GROVE with its themed weekends, in a beautiful location among a grove of trees.

Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall

Renninger's Antique Market, is another Adamstown original, known for being the first stop for dealers and buyers when shopping in Adamstown. Every Sunday before the birds get up activity is already starting at **Renninger's Antique Market**. Dealer after dealer arrive and begin to set up. You can feel the quiet frenzy of panic as buyers move around trying to view as much as possible. Suddenly you look at your watch and realize the indoor market is about to open...more fresh merchandise. You enter the indoor market with confidence that you have found the mother lode of Antiques and Collectibles.

And **Paradise** wouldn't live up to its name along Route 30 in Lancaster without some antique stores. Popular with visitors is the **Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall**, with 26,000 square feet of merchandise from over 125 dealers — an antique hunters Paradise indeed!

Most of the antique shops are open on Sundays, making this an excellent weekend activity, whether you stay overnight or just drive in for the day. As the folks at **Shupp's Grove** like to say, it's all about "the thrill of the hunt and the euphoria of the big find!"

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ENORMOUS 26,000 SQ. FT. ANTIQUE MALL!
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Beautiful Outdoor Antique Market
(Open Mid-April — October Sat & Sun 7am-4pm)
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April 21, 22 & 23 – 7AM–4PM
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— SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA —
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General Admission FREE, Fri. 11AM–4PM
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May 13 & 14 – Marbles, Metal Detectors, (Metal Anything!!) and Relic Hunters - (SS) PLUS Adamsburry Spring Craft Show (8 am) Special Section BOTH DAYS
May 20 & 21 – Art Glass, Pottery, Primitives & Red Ware Adamstown Spring Hunting & Fishing Show (7am) Special section SAT ONLY
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Since graduating from an MCC-supported tailoring program in Juba, South Sudan, in 2013, Anet Konga, right, has established herself as a well-known tailor in her community. Photo courtesy of Lindsay Linegar.

Gifts That Make A Difference

by Clinton Martin

In 1920 a group of Mennonites created the Mennonite Central Committee to aid hungry people in Russia and Ukraine. Today, the MCC is at work in every continent except Antarctica and Australia.

The Mennonite Central Committee's Global Family Education Program pays for vocational training, helping people in some of the most poverty-stricken regions of the world to develop skills which provide them with a sustainable livelihood. All this great work takes more than just a desire and a mission. It takes money to accomplish. Where does it all come from? Actually much of the money generated for supporting the MCC's efforts comes out of our own backyards. Over 16 million dollars of the MCC's annual budget comes from a very interesting source. A network of over 100 MCC Thrift Shops throughout the US and Canada.

While you're in Amish Country visit these shops. You'll know that while you are filling your shopping bag with merchandise you can use are also helping a worthy cause. For more information about the MCC Thrift Shop network, visit www.thrift.mcc.org.

Country Gift & Thrift Shoppe • 717-768-3784 In the quaint village of White Horse, amidst the tranquility of Amish farms, shop two floors of upscale high–quality merchandise and treasures for the whole family. This hidden gem is your source for beautiful linens, lightly used clothing and shoes, brand name purses, jewelry, housewares, crystal, toys, books galore, and must–see vintageware and antiques. The inventory changes literally every day. Come watch quilts being stitched by local groups in the Quilting Room. The store features a 50 cent clothing rack, a store-wide weekly half-price color tag sale, and select clothing is only $1.00 on Saturdays. Hours are every Monday-Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm, and Saturday 9:00am to 4:00pm. Shop in person and like them on Facebook for weekly specials. 2017 marks the 26th year of this shoppe. The shoppe's staff and volunteers are grateful that God has greatly blessed them so that they are able to reach out to the local community as well as those in need around the world. www.countrygiftandthrift.com.

Ephrata Re-Uzit Clothing & Housewares 717.733.4982 The small-town of Ephrata embodies the best of downtown Amish Country. There is plenty to do in this venerated borough, including some excellent thrift shop bargain-browsing. The Ephrata Re-Uzit shop is located right beside the old train station, now the town's visitor center, with plenty of free public parking including hitching rails for buggies, since the

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VINTAGE
CLOTHING

MORGANTOWN
Re-Uzit Shoppe

Just West of Morgantown on Route 23
2769 Main St. Morgantown
610-286-7233
Mon-Fri 9-5 • Sat 9-3 • Closed Sun

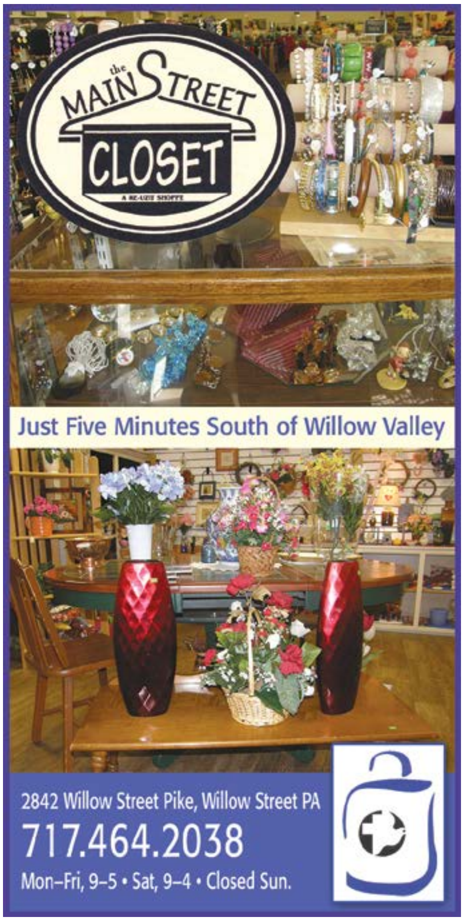
local Amish and Mennonite communities enjoy shopping here too. With one of the thrift shop network's widest selections of clothing, this store offers a fine way to clothe the kids, mom, dad, friends, family, and even grandma and grandpa. There is also plenty of glassware and kitchen items, plus a well-stocked toy corner full of dolls, trucks, puzzles, and plush items.

Ephrata Re-Uzit Furniture & Books 717.733.4934 Also on State Street at the south edge of Ephrata is a furniture and book warehouse not to be missed. Luxurious used leather couches and sectionals are available at fantastic prices, while a large selection of wooden furniture like hutches, dining room sets, and desks and end tables are on display beside an impressive variety of upholstered choices. Sharing space in this store is also an extensive selection of books and other media. Locals and visitors alike love that every purchase helps support disaster relief around the Country and the world. The easiest way to reach this store is to head North on Route 272 from Lancaster, taking State Street at the Y (use the Wendy's as a landmark) and turn right into the parking lot of the store directly after turning onto State Street.

Re-Uzit Shop of New Holland 717.354.8355 At the intersection of Route 23 and Shirk Road in New Holland is a very special thrift shop. It started in 1976 and was the first MCC Thrift Shop in Lancaster County. This is one of the largest thrift shops in the entire MCC-supporting network. Retail space alone accounts for 26,000 square feet of items on display, with the entire building occupying 40,000 square feet! There is plenty of furniture, clothing, crafts, gifts, decorations, small kitchen appliances, dishware, hardware, antiques, collectibles, and lamps available in this multifloor shopper's delight. This store has selected items for half price every week based on the color of the price tag. In addition, there is a section for 50 cent clothing. Known for a bright, clean atmosphere with friendly, helpful staff, this Re-Uzit offers shoppers a fine way to spend an afternoon in Amish Country. www.newhollandreuzit.org

Morgantown Re-Uzit Shoppe 610.286.7233 Morgantown is often considered the gateway to Amish Country from the east. It is an easy hop and skip off the PA Turnpike, the first welcome to Amish Country many visitors see, and can be easily reached from Berks, Chester, and Lancaster Counties. On Route 23 just west of Morgantown stands a Re-Uzit shop full of thrifty and useful finds. This store has everything for daily life's necessities. Apparel, décor, home goods, toys, gifts – shop here before you go to a regular retail store. You'll probably find what you're looking for, save money, and support a worthy cause all at the same time. A great collection of vintage collectibles and antiques is a fun bonus. "Like "the store on Facebook to see more photos, specials, hours and directions.

The Main Street Closet 717.464.2038 Main Street Closet is 5 minutes south of Lancaster at 2842 N. Willow Street Pike in Willow Street, PA. The shop has been at this new location since April of 2013 and is growing by leaps and bounds. The inventory changes daily with a large assortment of housewares, vintage items, collectibles, glassware, tools, books, shoes, games, puzzles, linens and a huge variety of clothing for the entire family. Every week items with a different color price tag go on sale at half price throughout the store. You are sure to find that special something to add to your collection, a craft item you have been looking for, a cute outfit for one of the kids and even something for yourself or your spouse. Check out this fun store and see what treasure you might find! From Lancaster take Route 272 south. Turn left on the second road past Kendig Square shopping mall, which is West Willow Road. Proceed several blocks to the corner of West Willow and 272 North. If traveling north on 272, turn left onto West Willow Road to enter the parking lot. With items on display at the various stores above always changing, stop in at one or more of them and remember that you are not only helping yourself to quality merchandise at a fair price, but helping other folks in need at the same time. www.mainstreetcloset.org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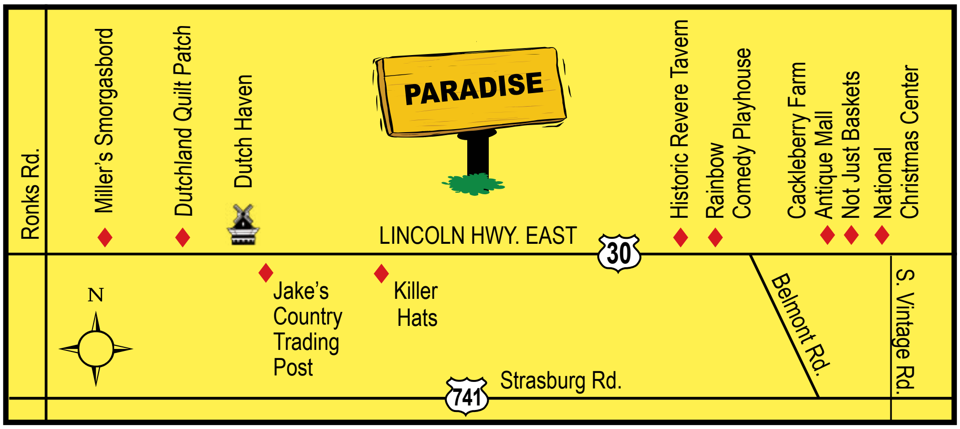
Welcome to Our Paradise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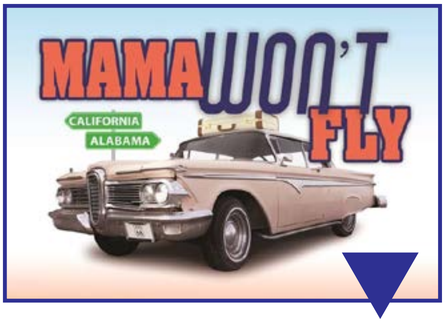
Visitors to Lancaster from the east on Route 30 travel through Paradise. The town's story traces back to Europe over 300 years ago, to the area of the Palatinate in Germany where Protestants had settled following the declaration of King Louis XIV that all Protestants in France would be persecuted. Fearing a French invasion, many accepted the invitation to settle in the New World in William Penn's colony of Penn's Woods. By 1712, they had secured land in Lancaster's Pequea Valley as the area's first white people, living peaceably with local Indians.

The origins of Route 30, also known as “Lincoln Highway,” date back to Lancaster's Colonial days when the frontier county needed a highway to connect it with the provincial capital of Philadelphia. The first road that was constructed is now Route 340, still referred to as the “Old Philadelphia Pike.” Soon, it was apparent that this road was insufficient to handle the increasing traffic, and in 1790, a commission to survey a new route was created. Since the cost was too much for the state to undertake, the company charged with building it was given the power to demand “reasonable” tolls from users. Investors received dividends earned from tolls collected along the gates of the turnpike. (As the toll was paid, the gate or “pike” was turned, hence the term “turnpike”). The "Lincoln Highway" (Route 30) opened in 1795 as the first long-distance, hard surfaced road in the country. Taverns and stagecoach stops grew up along the turnpike for weary travelers. Of these, the Revere Tavern, dating back to 1740 and originally called the “Sign of the Spread Eagle,” still proudly stands today. In 1841, the tavern became the residence of Reverend Edward V. Buchanan and his wife Eliza Foster Buchanan. Eliza was the sister of Stephen Foster, whose immortal songs will always be a part of Americana. Foster not only penned music at the tavern, but sent many of his manuscripts to Eliza, also a talented musician, for her approval. On the banks of the Pequea Creek, Eliza and Stephen played many of Stephen's 200 songs, including “Way Down Upon the Swannee River” and “Oh! Susanna.” Wherever you happen to call “paradise,” we hope that a little bit of our own Paradise won't do you any harm!

LAUGH!

Apr 8–May 27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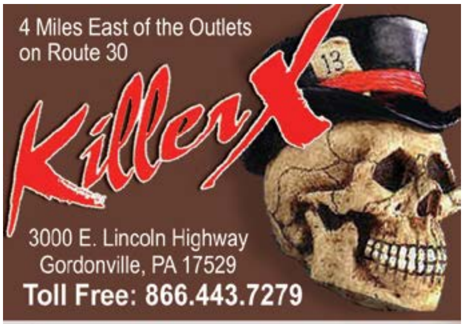
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**No purchase necessary to enter or win. A purchase does not increase chances of winning. Sweepstakes entries will only be considered valid from United States residents that are 21 years of age or older. Void where prohibited. Entries can be submitted in store or mailed in. You can read complete list of rules in store or visit www.CackleberryFarmAntiqueMall.com for all details.

The Amish In Their Own Words

by Brad Igou – Vol. 2 - Part One

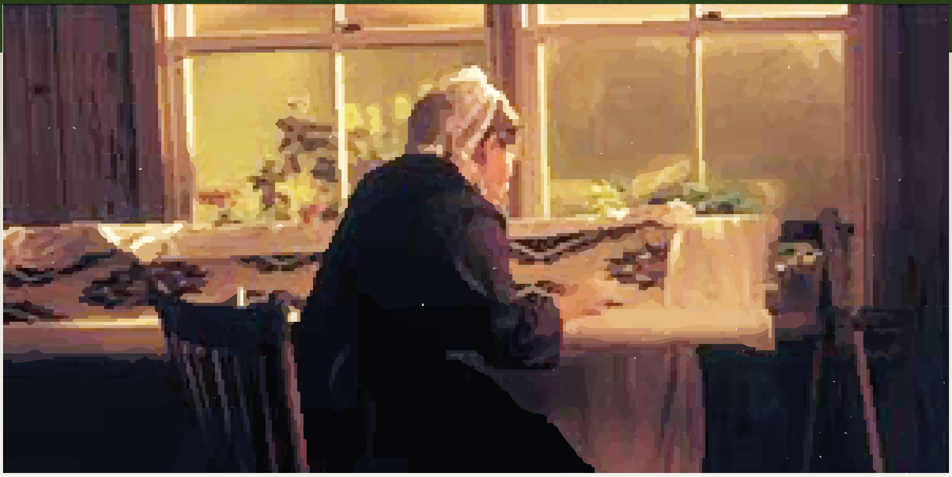
On February 13, 2002, almost one-half year to the day from the attack on New York of September 11th, I began work on the second volume of THE AMISH IN THEIR OWN WORDS, my book compiled from Amish writings in FAMILY LIFE magazine. I again stopped by the house of my Amish friend, Abner, who had given me access to the private Amish library that housed back issues of the publication. Since you could not remove anything from the library, I needed to go there to do my reading. It was Abner who had become my friend through our weekly visits to the library when I had been working on Volume One.

Knowing that this was the beginning of a project that would again last many years, with the hope, but no guarantee of being published, I reflected that no dream or goal can ever come true without taking that first very hesitant, unsure step, a step filled with hope, optimism, and faith in what may come.

A few months into the new project, my good friend passed away on September 7th. It was a shock and sad occasion for many, as Abner's funeral brought so many of his English friends and Amish brethren together. Many of us attended the auction of his personal belongings, including many books and folders of "clippings." Months went by. There was no one to open the library for me on my usual Wednesday nights.

Finally, I wrote a letter requesting permission to borrow the FAMILY LIFE volumes, one at a time. I realized that this would break the policy of not allowing books to leave the library. As I had hoped, the men found a solution. One had back issues in his home. At the library one Saturday, he gave me a box with the back issues for as long as I needed them. And so it was that on March 18, 2003, I again opened a magazine to read and "pick up where I had left off." Abner would probably have wondered what had taken me so long.

Since then, for many reasons, my project of producing a second volume stalled. Nevertheless, I had begun to read and compile articles. Since I don't know whether there will be a Volume Two, I have decided to share some of them as my Amish Series for this year…



Two Become One

At a wedding we attended some time ago, the minister compared the joining of two lives with two streams coming together and forming a larger one. He said no matter how gently the waters flow, their joining causes some ripples. But thankfully, a short distance down the stream, the ripples have often disappeared and the waters are calm and peaceful again. The two streams are now one, blended in such a way that it is impossible to distinguish one from the other.

The minister's comparison did not stop there. No creek bed is perfectly smooth. There are rocks, fallen logs, drop-offs, and other obstacles that cause ripples and foam, and even at times turmoil. In the same way, no marriage is without its little hurts and doubts and pressures and misunderstandings that need to be worked out in order to keep it running smoothly and peacefully.

Comfort from the Stars

"He telleth the number of the stars, he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord and of great power. His understanding is infinite." (PSALM 147: 4–5)

We were making plans for a new house. And my husband wanted a west window in the bedroom. I didn't care one way or the other, so that is how it was done. The window was on his side of the bed, so for years I did not count it as a special blessing.

But this past summer has brought many changes into my life. One morning I found my husband gone. He had died in his sleep. Now his side of the bed is empty.

Since that sad morning, I have received wonderful courage from that west bedroom window. The above verse has also been so real to me, and yet so indescribable. During the darkest nights, the stars are the brightest. They are uncountable and far away, but God seems very near.

I like to compare stars to persons. Some shine brighter than others, and occasionally one falls from the sky. I imagine the stars as our loved ones who have gone on before, and are looking down, guiding us on with their influence. The sleepless nights pass more quickly when I gaze at the stars. But there are nights when clouds block my view of those heavenly lights.

Life would not be complete with all sunshine and no rain. The west window and the stars have been a great comfort to me since one side of the bed is empty. But how void and meaningless the stars would be without those wonderful verses in Psalms to remind us of their Creator.

…and a reader replied…

I too have received comfort by watching the heavenly constellations and the bright moonlight. It's even more so now since my dear husband has gone to his reward. Yes, his side of the bed is sadly empty.

We also have a west bedroom window and I sometimes get up at night to view the awesome sight and meditate, receiving courage and inspiration through this. I am often reminded of the song "How Great Thou Art!"

I can always think of another widow out there somewhere, perhaps looking up at the same time. Yes, we are in the same shoes, and I pray the Lord to guide us each new day until we meet our loved ones up there.

7,000 Bolts of Fabric Just the Beginning at Dutchland Quilt Patch

By Clinton Martin

Dutchland Quilt Patch has two locations, one in Intercourse along Route 340, and the other on Route 30 in the Village of Dutch Delights. The Route 30 store carries 7,000 bolts of fabric that craft-it-your-selfers love, but that truly is just the beginning. Handmade Amish quilts are also available, as is a fascinating line of primitive Family Heirloom Textiles.

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All I Want is a Room Somewhere and a Ticket to Dutch Apple

by Clinton Martin

Can Eliza Doolittle go from a street flower girl to a fancy society lady? Favorite songs include "I Could Have Danced All Night" and "Grown Accustomed to Her Face."

Among musical-theater-lovers, who hasn't hummed a tune from "*My Fair Lady*?" Sometimes referred to as "the perfect musical," this gem is full of catchy tunes…"The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plains…"

Of course, unless you've got a time machine, and can float effortlessly back to the Mark Hellinger Theatre in New York City, 1956, you won't see this production in NYC. Luckily, you can indeed see *My Fair Lady's* dancing, singing, elocution lessons, and all the Cockney revelry on stage at Dutch Apple Dinner Theater, located right here in Lancaster.

My Fair Lady is playing March 23 – May 14, 2017. For those who aren't familiar with the show, if that's possible, here is the synopsis…

You'll be enchanted by this touching story when the egotistical Professor Henry Higgins attempts to transform a Cockney flower girl into an elegant lady in time for a society ball. His gamble could pay off, but the spirited Eliza Doolittle is more of a handful than he could have expected! This classic is filled with cheerful songs like "I Could Have Danced All Night," "Wouldn't It Be Loverly," "Get Me to the Church on Time," "On the Street Where You Live" and "I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face."

This is a classic show you will enjoy for the first time, or the tenth time. The romance, food, and fun are at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, 510 Centerville Road, Lancaster. Call 717-898-1900 or go to www.DutchApple.com for tickets, details and the line-up of this year's other great shows.

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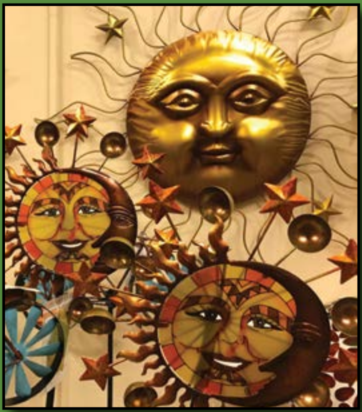

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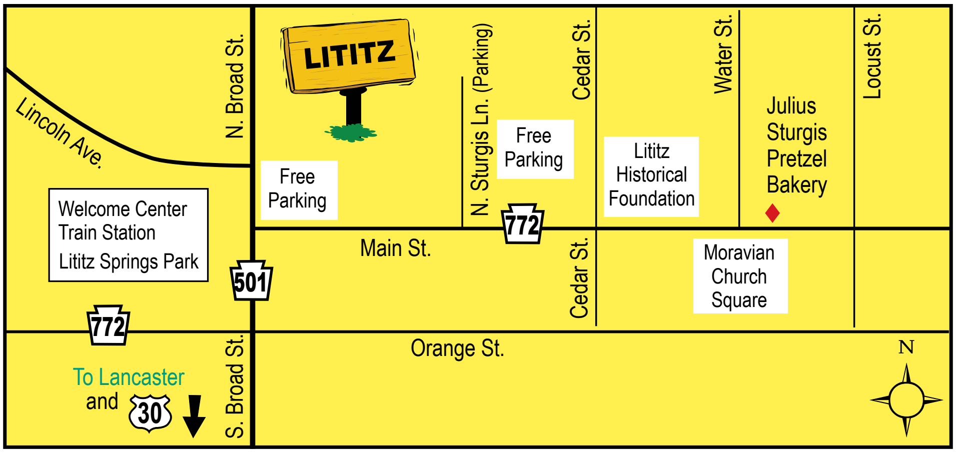
Historic Lititz...A Hometown Treasure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There's no place quite like Lititz, and visitors should plan time there while in Amish Country. The Lititz story is tied to that of the Moravian faith in Bohemia. As was the case with other persecuted religious groups in Europe, many Moravians sought freedom in the New World, arriving in the early 1700's, with settlements in Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

In 1755 the town actually took the name Lititz, the German spelling for Lidice, where European reformers had taken refuge in the 15th century.

Music and education were important to the Moravians. In fact, the Lititz schoolhouse erected in 1746 marked the beginnings of what was to be Linden Hall, the oldest continuously operating residence school for girls in the United States.

For one hundred years, Moravian church members were the only people permitted to live in the town. It was not until 1855 that non-Moravians were allowed to own their own homes. The complex of buildings comprising the Moravian congregation is well worth seeing, particularly the church built in 1787.

One name is linked forever with the history of Lititz–Julius Sturgis. He opened the first commercial pretzel bakery in the New World in Lititz. The year was 1861, and the site at 219 East Main Street is on the National Register of Historic Places. A tour of the bakery, still in operation, is unlike any other and well worth your time.

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An Insider's Guide to Amish Fiction

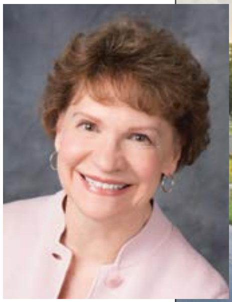
by Anna Henke

Whether you have the privilege to visit Amish country in person, or only visit from afar through Amish fiction, there is something about this community that draws us in and drives our fascination with the unique way of life of the Plain People. Is it the unplugged lifestyle? The integration of faith and family life? Or is it something much simpler—for example, their shoofly pie?

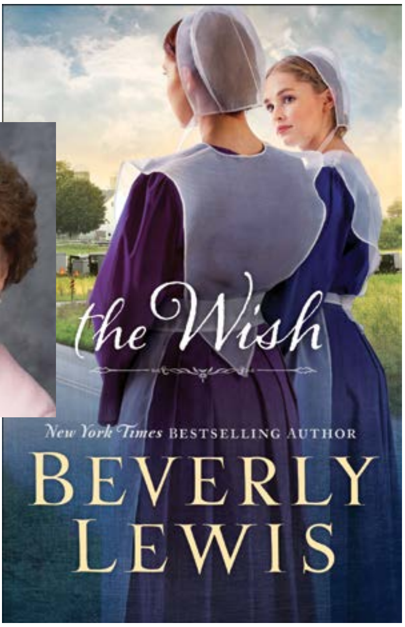
This remarkable community enables us *Englisch* visitors to escape into a more peaceful world where there are no phones ringing or TVs blaring out news we don't want to hear. Bestselling novelists Beverly Lewis and Leslie Gould have banked their writing careers on the fact that readers are similarly attracted to the Amish and that they, as authors, can keep finding fresh, new ways to explore and learn from this people group.

For *New York Times* bestselling author Beverly Lewis—the top author of Amish fiction—a key quality to marvel at is the Amish's great ability to forgive. Born and raised in Pennsylvania Dutch country, Beverly saw this demonstrated by her Amish friends, as well as in the story of her grandmother's Plain heritage, which has inspired her to write 36 Amish novels to date. She says she is also drawn to write about this community because of "their satisfaction with making do with what they have, their down-home style of humor and friendliness once you get acquainted with them, their connectivity to each other, and their devotion to God, which is woven into all aspects of their lives."

Bestselling author Leslie Gould fell into writing Amish fiction by chance, initially writing in collaboration with Mindy Starns Clark (*The Amish Midwife*). Since then, Leslie has published seven Amish novels under her own name, unable to resist their appeal. Leslie is drawn to keep writing these novels because "As with any group of people, there are endless themes to explore in the life of the Amish—love, betrayal, grace, hope, family, community. It's the nuances around those themes that I find so fascinating. What does betrayal look like in a relationship between two Amish people? How would an Amish family react to a wayward teen?" Great questions, because the struggles that many of us face today end up looking so different—and sometimes, clearer—through the lens of the Amish perspective. Are you interested in being similarly inspired? Let's dive into some of the nuances of Amish life and match them with books you may enjoy.



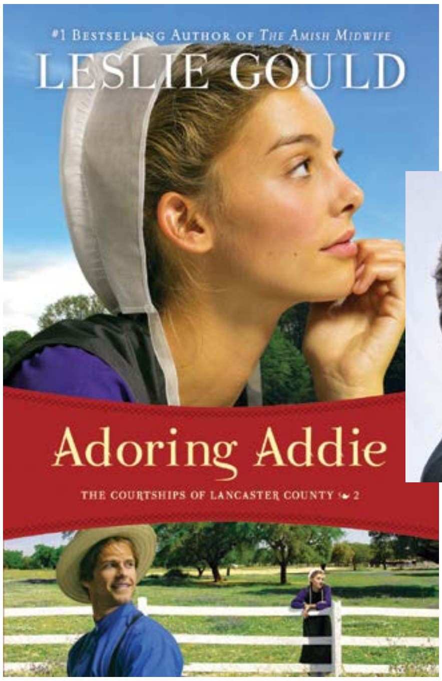
Beverly Lewis



If you're looking for a **heartwarming Amish romance**, pick up Leslie Gould's The Courtships of Lancaster County novels. These books portray the intricacies of Amish courtship, which is in some ways very different and in others very similar to ours. Interestingly, each one of these novels is loosely inspired by one of Shakespeare's plays, starting with *Courting Cate* (*The Taming of the Shrew*).

Star-crossed love is a tale as old as time. If you want to read about a romance between an Amish person and an *Englisch* person, check out *The Fiddler* by Beverly Lewis and *Amish Sweethearts* by Leslie Gould. These novels explore the specific challenges such couples face, particularly the obstacle of gaining cultural acceptance.

Speaking of cultural acceptance, have you ever wondered **how an outsider can join the Amish Church**? You can learn all about the process in *The Secret Keeper* by Beverly Lewis. And what if the situation is reversed? In *The Shunning*, also by Beverly Lewis, a woman chooses to **leave the Amish Church** to join the outside world. This dramatic story is based on the life of Beverly's own maternal grandmother.


#1 Bestselling Author of The Amish Midwife
LESLIE GOULD
Adoring Addie
THE COURTSHIPS OF LANCASTER COUNTY 2

Leslie Gould

The Amish community's dedication to independent education leads to trouble with the law in Dale Cramer's historical novel *Paradise Valley*, which is based on the lives of the author's Old Order Amish grandparents. When the state of Ohio makes a law that all children must attend public school in 1921, the family seeks sanctuary in Mexico. It presents a fascinating picture of past **interactions between the Amish community and the U.S. government**.

Inside families in every community, there is both external and silent, internal conflict. For example, what does **mental illness** look like for an Amish person? How is it treated? Beverly Lewis examines these questions in *The Preacher's Daughter*, which also portrays the effects of abuse. In *The Love Letters*, she highlights the effects of dementia on a person and the community's response.

Lastly, if you are fascinated by the **peaceful nature of Amish life amid the violence of the wider world**, then Leslie Gould's Neighbors of Lancaster County series is for you. A military wife, Leslie was inspired to explore this stark contrast by her husband's deployment to Afghanistan. Beginning with *Amish Promises*, the series follows an Amish and *Englisch* family living side by side and contrasts Amish pacifist beliefs with those of an *Englisch* veteran's family.

I hope you've found something that will give you a glimpse into an aspect of Amish life you've never considered—or simply an engaging read! All of these novels have one thing in common: hope. Hope for something better and more peaceful than what we might see around us. And we can all use more of that in our lives. You can learn more about Beverly Lewis and Leslie Gould at their respective websites: beverlylewis.com and lesliegould.com.

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With four locations throughout Amish Country, visitors are never more than a few minutes from experiencing what shopping at Good's is all about. While the merchandise does represent a huge variety of shoes, luggage, clothing for men, women, children, infants, kitchenware, sporting goods, toys, books, lawn & garden, hardware, paint, and household supplies, some of the most sought-after selections at this time of year are the generously stocked sewing and fabric sections. (Spring = Quilts & Crafts in Amish Country)

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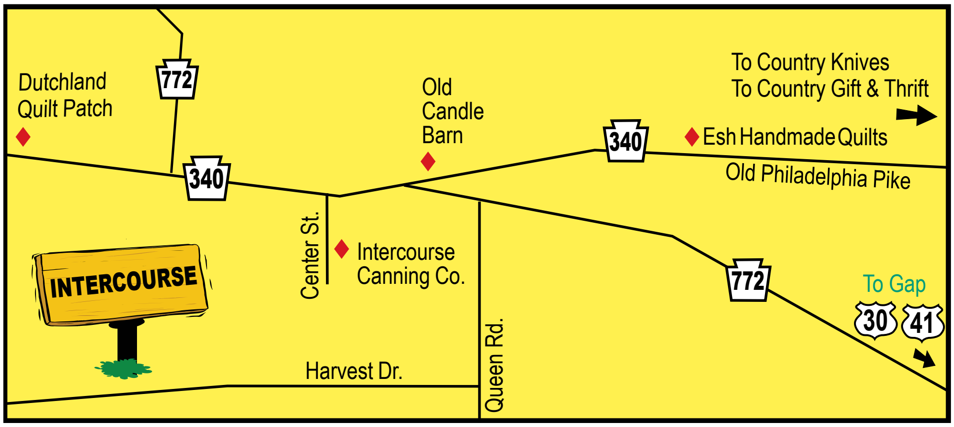
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Perhaps no other town in the entire country can claim its fame on just one simple thing…its name. Harrison Ford drove a buggy past the road sign on a memorable visit in the Hollywood blockbuster hit "Witness." For years people have postmarked “Intercourse” on envelopes, and the jokes from visitors who travel through Bird-in-Hand to Intercourse are endless. There are several theories for the name.

Around 1730, the Old Provincial Highway (now Rt. 340) was laid out to connect Philadelphia with Lancaster. Conestoga wagons hauled freight back and forth between the two cities. Providing rest for travelers and horses, taverns sprouted along the way, becoming centers for news, gossip, and commerce. The construction of a log tavern in 1754 at the intersection of Newport Road and the Highway took “Cross Keys” as its name.

It remained such until 1814, when the name was changed to Intercourse as part of a failed real estate scheme of a Mr. George Brungard, who had acquired 48 acres of nearby land and attempted to lay out a town site and divide it into sections for sale by a lottery, advertising “151 handsome building lots of $250 each to be drawn for by number.” Renaming the town made sense, as intercourse had a common usage referring to the pleasant mutual fellowship and frequent intermingling which were so common in the informal atmosphere of the quiet country village. Over time, Brungard’s scheme begat others. As recently as 1971, an enterprising soul tried to take advantage of the town’s name by selling deeds for one-inch square plots of Intercourse to visitors. Creative, but nonetheless a failure. By 1880, Intercourse had a population of 280 with a post office that actually moved among stores or restaurants as owners hoped visits by residents would increase their business.

The local stagecoach service started around 1898 as “a single horse conveyance similar to a market wagon, with a roll-up curtain and double set of seats.” When the stagecoach driver knew of passengers beforehand, their comfort on cold days was added to with the placement of hot bricks heated in the oven, and wrapped in newspaper to preserve their warmth.

As the days of the dirt road drew to a close, so too did the stagecoach era. In 1923 a transit company was organized and bus service initiated to and from Lancaster. While “many of the Amish residents of the area were eager to see the line started, they did not want to invest in stock of the Company. Instead they bought books of tickets which were really prepaid bus fares.” Walking the streets of this tiny hamlet is an absolute must-visit for everyone.

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Special to AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

Suzanne Woods Fisher

Author Suzanne Woods Fisher's *The Newcomer* takes readers back to Amish Beginnings with book two of her immensely popular historical Amish series. *Anna's Crossing*, book one of the Amish Beginnings series, has been described as "fast paced, character driven, filled with rich descriptions and enjoyable dialogue." Now, with book two, Anna's 18th century journey from Europe to America will continue. Fisher draws readers back into the lives of characters they couldn't soon forget—and one "newcomer" they have yet to meet.

After ten weeks at sea, Anna Konig and her fellow church members are eager to begin their new lives in the vibrant Pennsylvania frontier. Awaiting their arrival on the docks stands Bishop Jacob Bauer, founder of the settlement and father to ship carpenter Bairn.

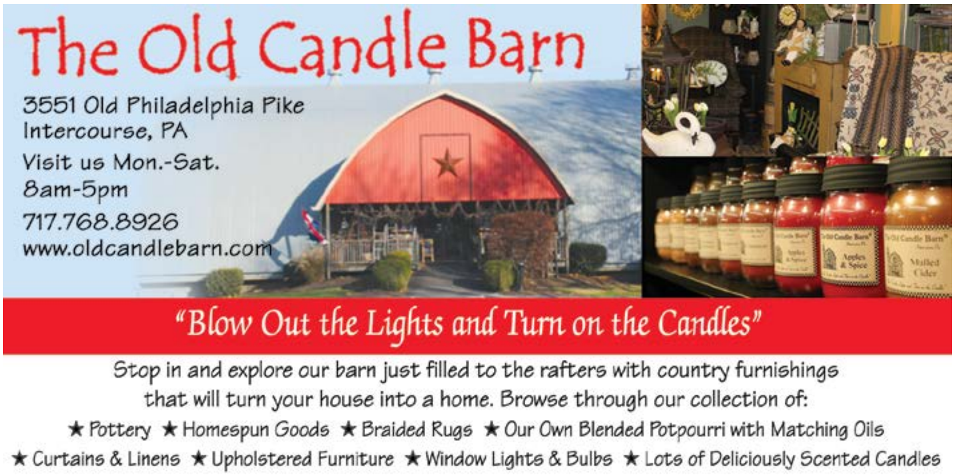
A brand new start is under way for the reunited Bauer family and for Anna and Bairn's shipboard romance. But in this time of new beginnings, the perfect moment will not last.

Bairn soon comes to realize that his dream of the Amish New World does not match up with reality. His enthusiasm vanishes as he faces isolation, rigid expectations, and the control of his domineering father. So when a sea captain offers him the opportunity to cross the ocean one more time, he doesn't hesitate to accept. But will Anna wait for him to return?

As soon as Henrik Newman joins the church, Anna feels her allegiance to Bairn tested. He seems to be everything that Bairn is not—bold, devoted, and after her heart. But the most dramatic difference is that Henrik is here, while Bairn is not.

Fisher weaves together the lives of Anna, Bairn, and Henrik in an unexpected turn of events far from the frontier. A secret comes out, and true love is put to the final test.

Suzanne Woods Fisher is the bestselling author of *The Letters*, *The Calling*, the Lancaster County Secrets series, and the Stoney Ridge Seasons series, as well as nonfiction books about the Amish, including *Amish Peace*. She is also the coauthor of an Amish children's series, *The Adventures of Lily Lapp*. Suzanne is a Carol Award winner for *The Search*, a Carol Award finalist for *The Choice*, and a Christy Award finalist for *The Waiting*. She is also a columnist for *Christian Post* and *Cooking & Such* magazines. Learn more at www.suzannewoodsfisher.com and connect with Suzanne on Twitter @suzannewfisher.



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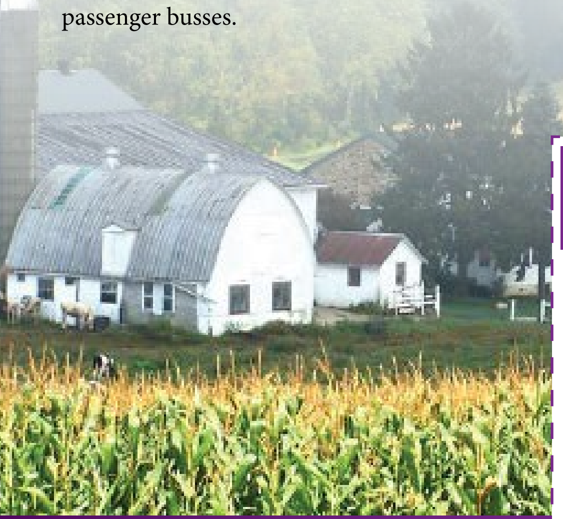

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Rare is the opportunity to meet with Amish families willing to share their traditions and beliefs with you. In a group whose size is never more than 14, this is the only Amish Tour to be designated an official "Heritage Tour" by the County of Lancaster. Visit an Amish farm at milking time, stop at a Cottage Industry, and finally enjoy a visit and chat with one of our Amish friends in their home.

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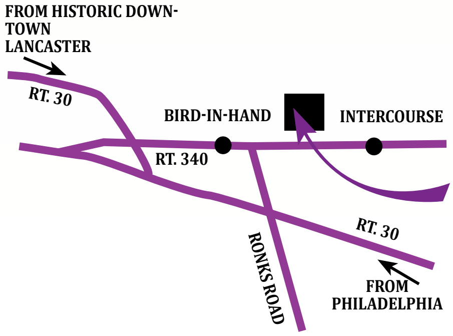

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Prolific Author Wanda Brunstetter Hosts Authentic Amish VIP Evening

by Clinton Martin

Wanda Brunstetter is an award-winning romance novelist who has led millions of readers to lose their heart in the Amish life. She is the author of nearly 70 books with more than 9 million copies sold. Many of her books have landed on the top bestseller lists, including the New York Times, Publisher's Weekly, USA Today, CBA, ECPA, and CBD. Wanda is considered one of the founders of the Amish fiction genre, and her work has been covered by national publications, including Time Magazine, USA Today, Newsweek, Good Housekeeping, and Country Woman. Wanda's books have been translated into four foreign languages.

The Amish Experience at Plain & Fancy Farm, Lancaster County's original Amish farmland tour innovator, is honored to host Brunstetter for a very special once-in-a-lifetime VIP evening, offering a very limited number of guests a personal experience right on an Amish farm. This event takes place on one day only, Thursday June 8, 2017.

The evening begins at 4:30, when you'll be taken with a local guide for a delicious all-you-can-eat Pennsylvania Dutch catered meal served right in an Old Order Amish home.

Following this family-style dinner, Wanda will speak to the group and answer questions about her writing experience. You'll also meet Wanda's daughter, and their respective husbands.

Everyone will also enjoy a hands-on activity making your own stamped greeting card under the expert tutelage of our Amish hosts. (This is a popular Amish hobby, and the family actually has a delightful upstairs card shop on the property for you to explore.)

As an added bonus, everyone will receive a complimentary copy of Wanda's "The Best of Amish Friends Cookbook Collection," courtesy of Barbour Publishing (a $13 value). And what better place for a personal book signing by Wanda than in an Amish home!

Prior to the special event, Wanda will be present for a public book signing in the Country Store at Plain & Fancy Farm. Advance ticket purchase for the evening with Wanda that follows is highly recommended, as space is limited.

The itinerary for this very special evening on June 8 will be as follows:

3:30pm	Optional book signing with Wanda Brunstetter at Plain & Fancy Farm Country Store (open to the public)
4:00pm	Register for Tour at Theater Box Office
4:30pm	Board Mini Bus in front of Country Store (transportation to Amish farm.)
5:00pm	Arrive at Amish farm and enjoy the family-style meal together
6:30pm	Q&A with Wanda (with cookbook signing) and authentic card making
7:30pm	Depart the Amish farm on Mini Bus (transportation back to Plain & Fancy.)
8:00pm	Arrive back at Plain & Fancy and farewell to the visitors with whom we were honored to share this amazing evening.

For more information, or to book a reservation, visit www.AmishExperience.com and click the "book now" button.

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My Grandmother's Quilts

by Wanda E. Brunstetter, Award Winning Novelist

My fascination with quilts began when my mother gave me the old patchwork quilt her mother had made over 85 years ago. Since my maternal grandmother died 6 years before I was born, I never got to meet her. The only link I had to my grandmother was the patchwork quilt.

As a young girl, I would sit on my mother's bed and study the quilt. I loved touching the oddly shaped velveteen patches, scattered among the colorful cotton and wool pieces of material.

My mother told me that each patch represented a piece of clothing someone in her family had worn. I used to imagine myself sitting on my grandmother's lap, with the quilt draped over us. What would she have said to me? How would her hugs have felt?

When my daughter got married, I passed my grandmother's quilt on to her, and someday she'll pass it on to one of her daughters. Although none of us has had the privilege of meeting Grandma Thiel, her legacy lives on through her beautiful patchwork quilt.

My love for quilts is evident throughout our home. I have two full-sized Amish quilts; several quilted wall hangings, quilted pillows, table runners, and potholders. Whenever I look at any of my quilts, I think about the labor of love that went into making them, and it gives me a sense of joy and peace.

I've mentioned quilts in several of my Amish-themed novels, including *The Quilter's Daughter* and *The Hope Chest*. It's my hope that after reading one of my novels, my readers will not only gain a better understanding of the Amish way of life, but will realize the effort that goes into the making of a treasured Amish quilt.

www.wandabrunstetter.com

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the Amish
Experience
Two Worlds One Choice

Jacob's Choice at the Amish Experience Theater

Discover what it means to be Amish through magical story-telling as you become part of the emotional struggle of the Fisher family to preserve more than 400 years of Amish traditions. Five viewing screens, a unique barnyard setting, and special effects create a one-of-a-kind experience.

Amish Farmlands Tour

Journey down rarely traveled back country roads, deep into the farmlands, to discover the sights sought after by visitors. Gain insights into the hows and whys of an ever-changing culture from certified guides in 14-passenger mini-shuttles. Stops may include a roadside stand, quilt shop, country store or craft shop on an Amish farm.

Amish Country Homestead & Schoolroom

Visit the only officially designated "Heritage Site" Amish house. As you walk through the nine rooms with your guide, unravel the riddle of Amish clothing, life without electricity, and eight-grades-in-a-room education as you sit at authentic Amish school desks.

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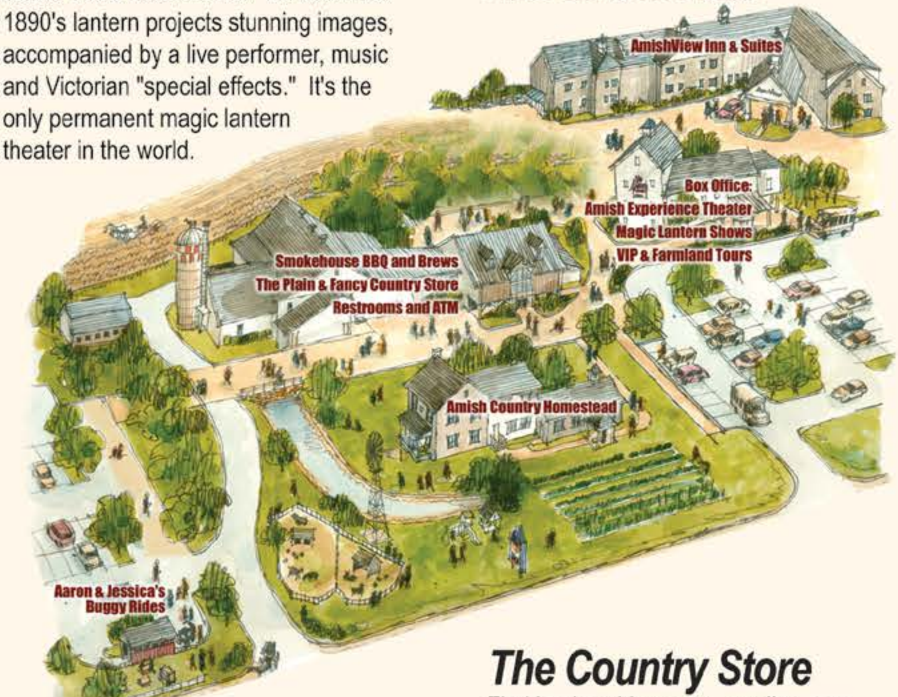
Visit-in-Person Tour

This officially designated "Heritage Tour" is a rare opportunity to meet and talk to the Amish personally. On this exclusive tour you will go right into the barn on an Amish farm at milking time, visit with an Amish artisan at his workplace, and then enjoy a personal visit and conversation right in an Amish home. Limited to 14 guests.

Smokehouse BBQ and Brews

Please see right hand page.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Amish Experience Theater
Magic Lantern Shows
VIP & Farmland Tours
Smokehouse BBQ and Brews
The Plain & Fancy Country Store
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Amish Country Homestead
Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides

Buggy Rides

Aaron & Jessica's drivers are happy to share life stories and answer questions.

The Country Store

Find books, videotapes, candles, toys and dolls, kitchen and home items, souvenirs, local handcrafts, Amish clothing, straw hats, bonnets, and last but not least...tasty treats.

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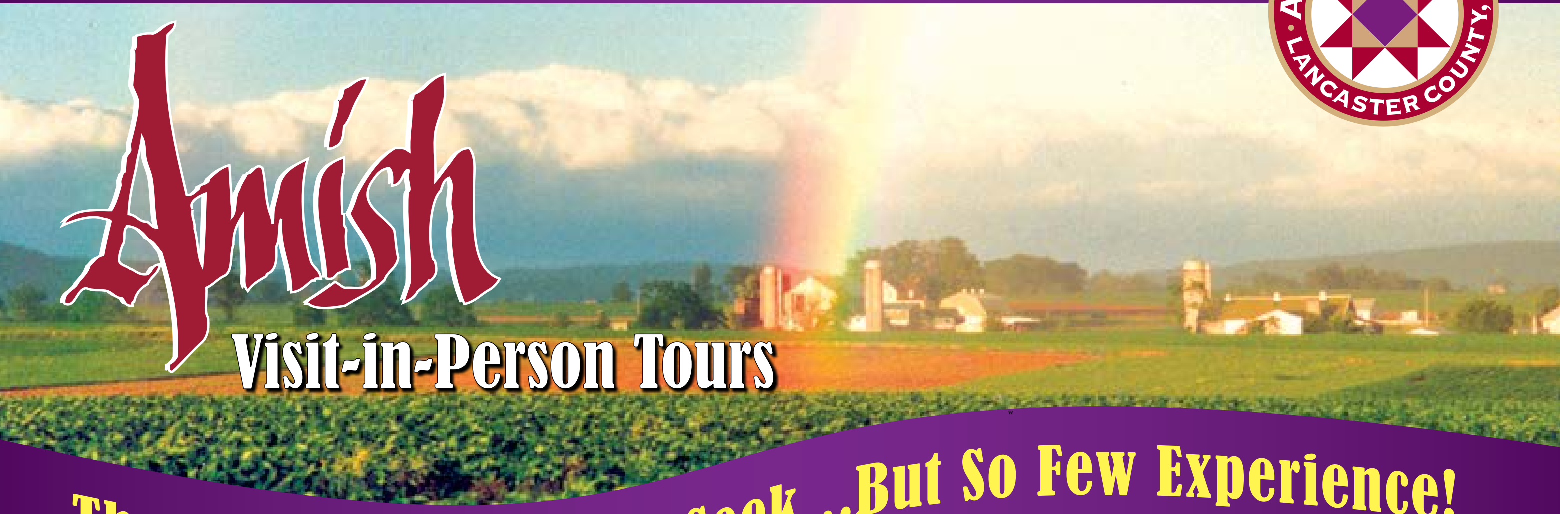

Amish

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Stop 1: Amish Farm at Milking Time Observe the milking process. Discover "Amish electricity" as you learn that the Amish do not milk cows by hand.

Stop 2: Amish "Cottage Industry" As land for farming shrinks, more Amish turn to home businesses to balance work and family. For example, we may visit a furniture craftsman, greenhouse, soap artisan, harness shop, canning kitchen, basket weaver, mini-horse farm, or even a carriage maker, for a personal talk and presentation.

Stop 3: Visit An Amish Home We'll go to the home of one of our Amish neighbors for friendly conversation...a chance to sit, chat, and visit the Amish way. It's not surprising that strangers soon become friends.

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So, You Want To Be Amish?

by Brad Igou

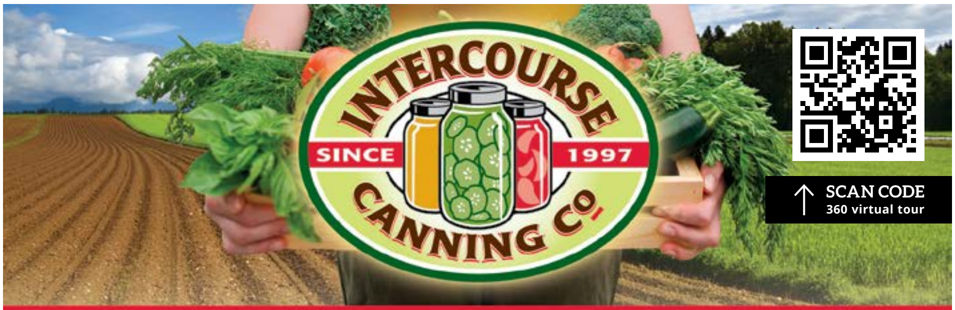
From time to time we receive letters from people who want our help in becoming Amish. Do people ever convert to the Amish faith? Yes, but it is relatively rare. Why do people wish to be Amish? As our way of life becomes more hectic, we may see a slower, simpler style of living as appealing.

Some readers who write us tell of broken homes, divorced parents, fathers who abandoned wife and child. They view the Amish community as a place were they would be secure and welcome.

What many of these people see is just the surface, a seemingly idyllic life. But being Amish involves many challenges for the outsider. First of all, the Pennsylvania German dialect is something that must be learned. Then come the challenges of leaving behind those "necessities" of life like television, radio, electric appliances, automobile, and fashionable clothing. Finally, you might find the many "ordnung" or rules of the church to be formidable. The way of life cannot be adopted without the religion.

Thus, the Amish are cautious when outsiders say they want to be Amish. Rather than sitting down and talking about the religion, the sincere "seeker" is usually placed with a family and takes part in the daily routine.

In reality, the Amish share many of the problems most of us have, and they should not be seen as a utopian society or the solution to the world's ills.



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Esh Handmade Quilts Offers Handmade Gifts For Any Occasion

By Clinton Martin

Somewhere around 1923, Jake Esh's great-grandfather purchased a farm along Route 340 just east of Intercourse. That farm is still in the Esh family today, Jake Esh being the current owner. But the 60 cows, give or take, that Jake and his family milk every day are not what make the farm such a wonderful place to visit. Jake's wife Anna and their daughters operate a neat quilt and craft shop on the farm. The shop features many items they've handmade, ranging from full size quilts, to wall-hangings, pillows, pot holders, and even some jams and jellies from the kitchen.

Esh Handmade Quilts is easy to spot along Route 340, since they use quilts waving in the breeze as the sign that you've arrived, but for GPS directions use 3829 Old Philadelphia Pike, Gordonville PA.

When visiting Esh Handmade Quilts, you'll be joining the ranks of visitors from all over the United States, Europe, South Africa, Australia, and other regions around the world that have already browsed the authentic quilts at Esh's. One quilt was even ordered and sent to President and Mrs. George Bush at the White House! For more information, call 717-768-8435.

The ladies of Esh Handmade Quilts produce much more than exquisite quilts, like these quilted puppy dog "pillows."

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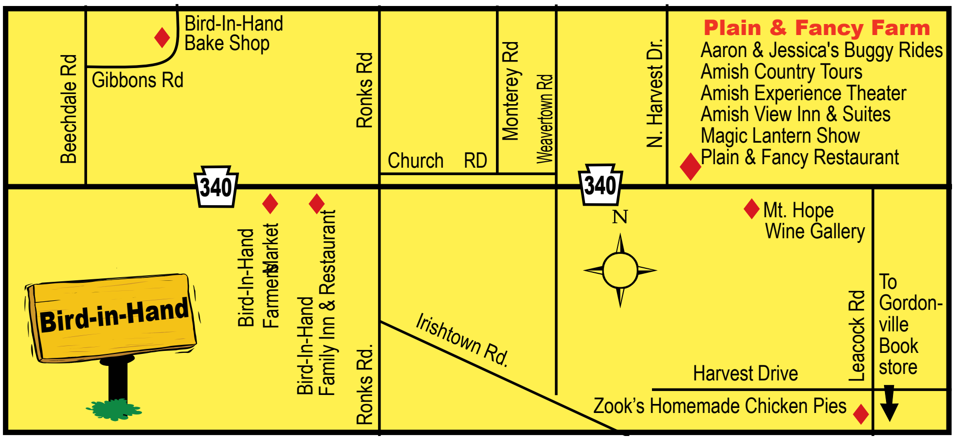
Welcome to the Village of Bird-in-Hand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Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird-in-Hand. William Penn, an English Quaker, had founded the colony of Penn's Woods, and settlers began arriving from Europe in the early 1700's, moving westward from Philadelphia. The trip by stagecoach, or Conestoga wagon with freight and merchandise, lasted several days. Inns were built every few miles, identified with signs held by an iron pole or attached to the side of the building. The reason for the signs was so that they could be understood by all nationalities. Further, since many teamsters or wagoneers were poorly educated they could not read. Given orders to stop at a certain inn, they were able to do so by recognizing the artwork on the signboard.

The legend of the naming of Bird-in-Hand dates to the time when the Old Philadelphia Pike was being laid out. By 1734, surveyors at McNabb's Hotel were discussing whether they should stay at their present location or return to Lancaster to spend the night. One of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." The sign in front of the inn, which became known as the Bird-in-Hand Inn, is known to have once "portrayed a man with a bird in his hand and a bush nearby, in which two birds were perched."

Variations of this sign appear throughout the town today. McNabb's Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1851. By the following year, a three-story hotel was built to replace it. More recently, it was Bitzer's Hotel before becoming the present Village Inn of Bird-in-Hand, a beautiful bed and breakfast property. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County states that the existing brick building "may be one of the few 19th century inns in the context of a small town in Lancaster County, which survives with a high degree of architectural integrity." It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When referring to their bird in hand symbol, some residents say that the bird nestled in the human hand indicates friendship, comfort, and hospitality, all of which you'll discover in this perfectly delightful little village of shops, farmers markets and eateries.

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A Patchwork Heritage

By Brad Igou

J&B Quilts & Crafts has quilts. Lots of them. Both those made to meet the tastes of the "English" and the more "traditional antique Amish quilts." No matter if they are contemporary or a throwback to tradition, Amish quilts are works of art displayed as bedspreads and wall-hangings.

When I look at the old quilt I have hanging in my house, I celebrate the colors and lives of its creators…my mother and grandmother. That quilt had long been tucked away in a drawer, out of sight. One day my mother and I unwrapped it, and these scraps of cloth took on a new life. It is not a work of art, perhaps, but now it is where it deserves to be. Its varied pieces of cloth are a daily reminder of the love that can bind family and friends. It is our family's "patchwork heritage."

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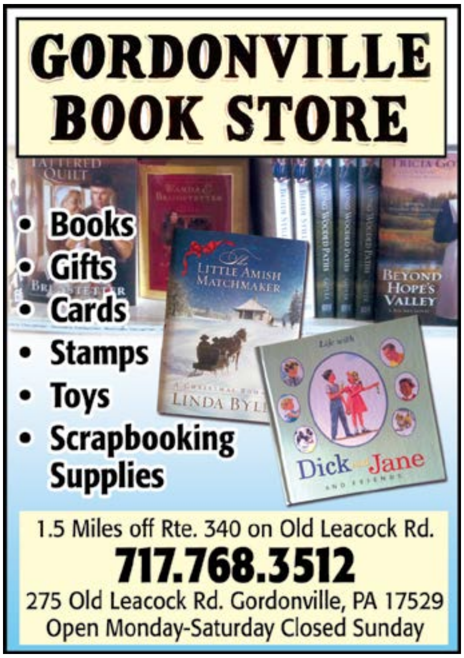
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Good Sam

Layer Dip Recipe

Courtesy of Intercourse Canning Company

By Clinton Martin

Intercourse Canning Co
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Baby Beets

Intercourse Canning Company is known for putting the best of Lancaster County in a jar, including salsas and dips. This recipe makes an Amish dip favorite, "layer after layer of flavor."

Ingredients

1 (16 oz.) can re-fried beans
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese or 4-cheese Mexican blend mix
1 dip mix, prepared according to package directions (Savory Salsa Ranch Dip Mix, Chipotle & Garlic Dip Mix, or Hotcha Jalapeno Dip Mix)
1 (32 oz) jar Intercourse Canning Company salsa of choice
1 cup prepared guacamole (store-bought or homemade)
2 cups shredded lettuce
1 (12 oz) can sliced black olives
1/2 cup sliced green onions

Directions

1. Warm re-fried beans in a medium sauce pan over medium heat, stirring until mixture becomes easily spreadable. Spread the beans in an 8 or 12 in. square glass casserole dish as the base of your dip.
2. Layer the cheese, prepared dip mix, salsa, guacamole, olives, onions. Top with shredded lettuce and serve with tortilla chips to dip. (Optional) Squeeze some fresh lime on top, add fresh diced tomatoes or Jake & Amos Sliced Jalapeno Peppers for an extra layer of heat! Makes 8-10 servings.

Pick up the prepared dip mix, salsa, and peppers at Intercourse Canning Company, just off Route 340 at 13 Center Street, Intercourse, PA 17534. Call 717.768.0156 or visit their website today at www.icanning.com.

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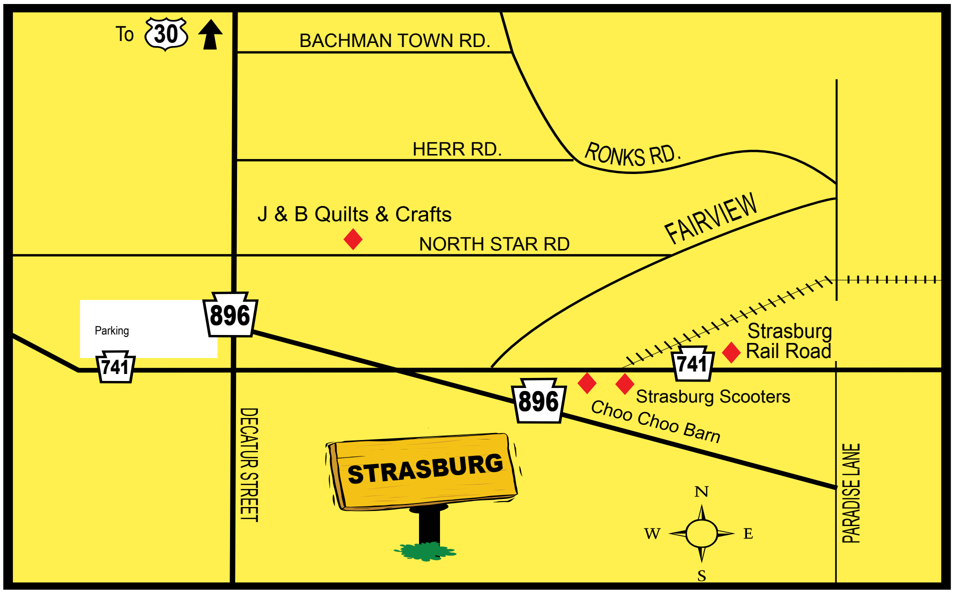
Strasburg - A Town of Trains & Heritage



All aboard! Strasburg is a destination all its own in Dutch Country, home to many well known attractions. To name just a few --- the Strasburg Rail Road, Ghost Tours of Lancaster, National Toy Train Museum, and the Choo Choo Barn. But you may not know much about the interesting history of "Train Town." Strasburg, named for the city in France, was actually “founded” by a Frenchman, Pierre Bezaillion, who traded with the Delaware Indians. The story goes he came to the area in 1693, as French fur traders opened up the first path through this area from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River.

As early as 1716, when the first wagon was used for hauling goods, the path became known as the Conestoga Road, and the wagons that traveled them eventually became known as Conestoga Wagons. Main Street Strasburg was developed during the next half century as traffic on this road increased considerably and the first log houses appeared in the village about 1733.

Strasburg continued to flourish in the 18th century primarily because of its location along the major wagon routes between Philadelphia, Lancaster, and the Susquehanna River. As Strasburg flourished, so did its neighbor to the east, Philadelphia. The commercial interests of Philadelphia pressured the State Legislature to improve the transportation network into their city. As a result, a series of canals along with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Roads were constructed. Strasburg residents became alarmed at the possibility of losing their commercial position and there soon emerged a charter for the Strasburg Rail Road to construct a rail line connecting Strasburg with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road main line near Paradise. Finally in the 1850’s, trains were hauling freight and passengers.

About 100 years later, business had dwindled, and a severe storm in 1957 destroyed much of the

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Young Amish woman Rose Lehman has always known who she wants to marry: the bishop’s son, Reuben Byler. But then Trevor, the handsome Army buddy of her future brother-in-law, visits Lancaster County, and Reuben starts to seem dull by comparison. When the thrill of adventure begins to fade, will Rose find happiness—or ruin her best chance at love?

“The narrative flows beautifully. . . . A complex story that digs deeply into Amish culture and shatters some preconceived notions. Gould evokes true emotion as she examines contemporary situations through a critical, yet loving, lens.”—*Publishers Weekly*

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track. It seemed the SRR had reached the end of the line. To the rescue came a group of local train enthusiasts who began bringing the SRR back to life in a totally new way. They added passenger cars and buildings, and today's Strasburg Rail Road was born, destined to become one of Dutch Country's top attractions.

Appropriately enough, the State decided to build an expanded Rail Road Museum of Pennsylvania across the street, the ideal place to preserve the history of railroading in Pennsylvania. With the other train attractions nearby, it's little wonder that Strasburg has earned the title of Train Town!

The one that started it all at Zook's, the delectable homemade Chicken Pie.

Savory Pies and Sweet Dumplings at Zook's

By Clinton Martin

The oft-quoted notion of the Amish culinary love affair with the "seven sweets and seven sours" is clearly more fiction than an accurate description of a typical Amish meal. However, the Amish kitchen will indeed span the divide between hearty, meaty, and savory to the sweet, decadent, and sublime. Dessert, often more than one, is offered at most meals, even if it is just a simple one.

Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies is a local Amish bakery that has developed a growing and loyal following for delicious, protein-packed, savory meat pies. Chicken, Sausage, and Beef varieties are all made on-site and sold fresh or frozen to enjoy at home, hotel, or campsite.

But, what about dessert? Zook's obliges with a sweet and tasty apple dumpling. It's the perfect pillow of dough wrapped around an apple grown less than five miles from Zook's, with cinnamon and other flavors baked right in. Serve warm with milk and it's a luxurious meal in itself!

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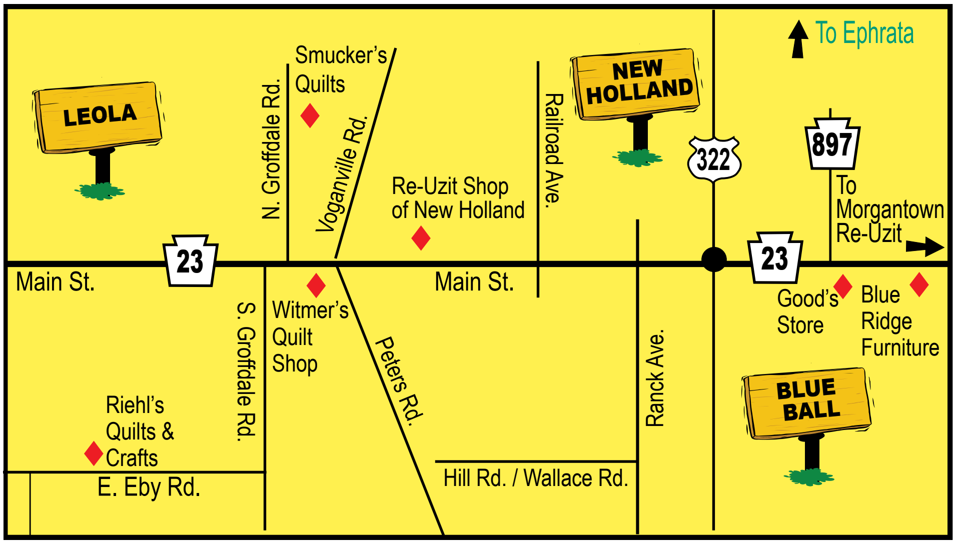
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The instability in Europe in the late 1600's spawned and nurtured the pioneer interest in the deep forest lands of Pennsylvania. In 1681 William Penn received his 40,000 square-mile land grant to settle King Charles' debt to his father. Himself a Quaker, Penn had experienced religious persecution firsthand, and decided to establish his American colony based on complete religious freedom.

This entire century had been one of continued misery for the peasants of the Palatinate (western Germany). The Thirty Years War had raged across the area with barbaric ruthlessness. The peasant inhabitants fled to nearby Holland for refuge. And within a decade of the end of that conflict, King Louis XIV of France started a new religious war in the same general area. These Palatinate peasants were exhausted by war's desolation, and were ripe for a new start. Traveling land agents for William Penn's new colony found listening ears. In addition to religious freedom and a peaceful existence, Penn offered cheap land. The stated price was 100 English pounds for 5,000 acres.

By 1728, William Penn had been dead for 10 years and his American colony, called Pennsylvania, was being administered by a proprietary governor while the sale of land was formalized by patent deeds.

In 1802, when a post office was established and an official name was necessary, there was no objection to naming the town New Holland. These grateful people remembered how extremely kind the inhabitants of Holland were to them, and the assistance that included funds to cover the cost of the refugee German immigrants' ocean voyage.

This was no small matter when the alternative was indentured service for a period of years. For adults, indenture frequently meant four to seven years of labor without pay. Minors served until their 21st birthday. But still, William Penn's Quaker Pennsylvania was liberation compared to the Europe they fled seeking freedom of religion, assembly and speech for all, hopefully, none of which we take for granted today.

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So What Exactly IS Shoo-Fly Pie?

By Brad Igou

Perhaps no other single dessert is so identified with Amish Country as is the shoofly pie. First-time visitors always want to know what it is. We might say it is more like a coffee cake, with a gooey molasses bottom. This bottom can be thick or barely visible, hence we refer to pies as wet-bottom or dry-bottom. Some cooks put chocolate icing on top for a chocolate shoofly pie. There are even recipes for shoofly cake. Some use spices, some don't. There does seem to be agreement that they are best slightly warmed with a major dab of whipped cream on top. (Thank goodness for the microwave!)

Shoofly pie can be enjoyed in many area restaurants, or purchased from local bake shops (see below for our recommendations.) Most people find them very sweet, what with all that molasses and brown sugar. If you like sweet desserts, you'll probably love shoofly pie. I know I do!

But how did these pies get their name? We have lots of fun joking with visitors that "flies are in season right now." But the flies have to do with the most logical explanation --- that the sweet ingredients attracted flies when the pies were cooling. The cooks had to "shoo" the flies away, hence the name shoofly pie.

Another story claims that this is really a French recipe, and that the crumb topping of the pie resembled the surface of the cauliflower, which is "cheux-fleur" in French. This was eventually pronounced as shoofly. We locals have a little problem with that explanation, but I doubt that this pie is being served up in the fine restaurants of Paris. (Then again, I have never been to Paris.)

No less an authority on things Pennsylvania Dutch than John Joseph Stoudt states clearly that shoofly pies "are soundly Pennsylvanian,

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made in the earlier days with sorghum, later with molasses, and with brown rather than granulated sugar."

Phyllis Pellman Good, in her book AMISH COOKING, feels that these pies may have been common because "this hybrid cake within a pie shell" fared better in the old style bake ovens after the bread had been baked. With modern kitchen stoves, temperatures could be controlled and the more standard, lighter pies developed. Who cares? The important thing is to try some! Here are a few choice shoofly sources.

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Bird-in-Hand Smorgasbord	**717-768-1500**
Countryside Road-Stand	**717-656-9206**
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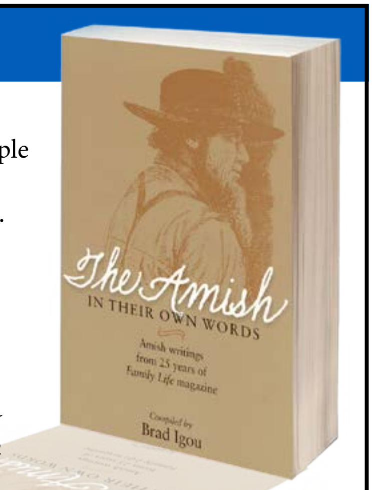

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Amish Country News 2016 Photo Contest Winners

by Clinton Martin

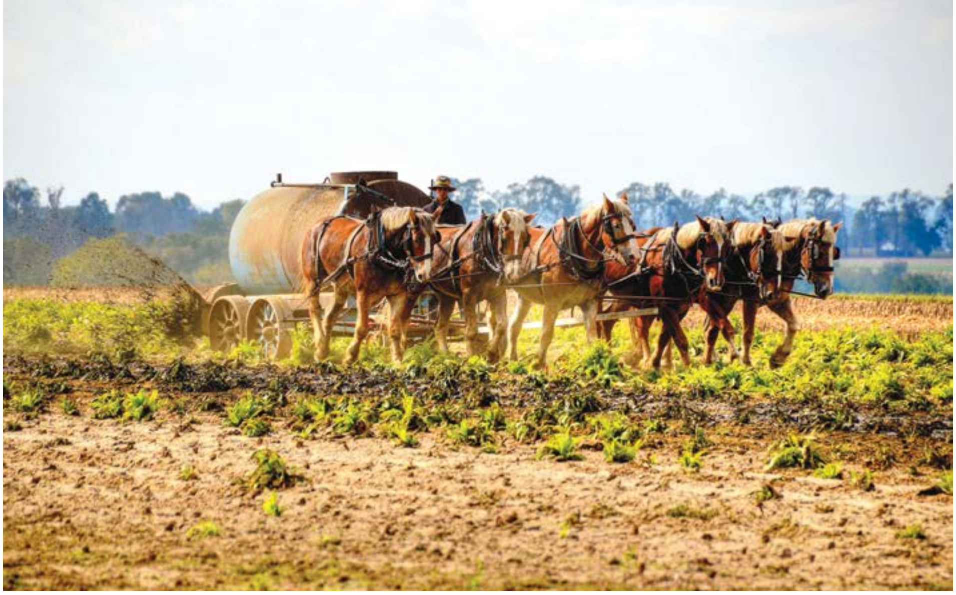
For decades now, *Amish Country News* has held a competition focused on photos taken in what we broadly call "Amish Country." Both visitors and locals have sent us many great pictures. Our contest started back in the days before cellphones and digital, so originally we received actual photographs in the mail. How things have changed!

Now it is quite easy for anyone to take a photo on the spur of the moment when they see something interesting. Still, not everyone has an "eye" for a good picture – composition, color, subject matter, contrast, etc.

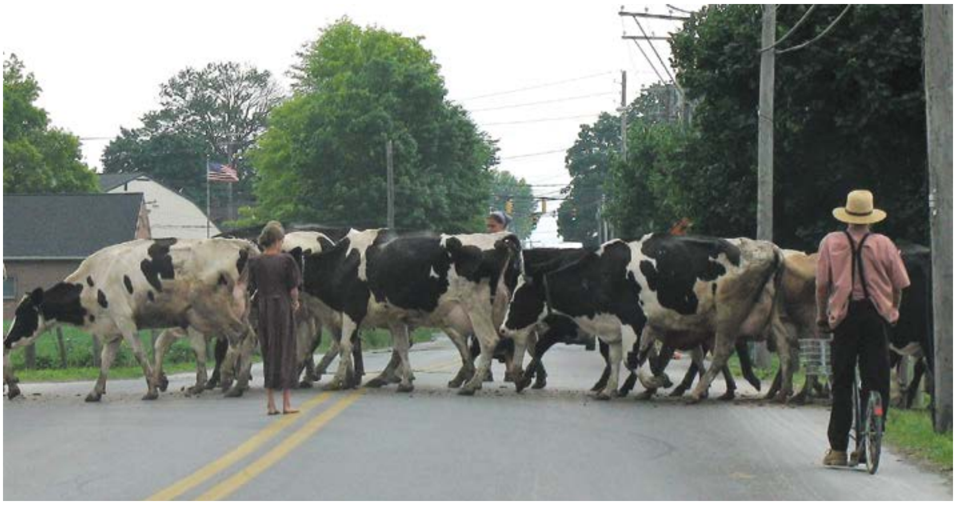
We are pleased to present our winners from 2016…

Grand Prize. Ray Smecker, Churchtown, PA "Spring at the Bridge" This covered bridge is in Caernarvon Township. The pink blossoms in the foreground and the red covered bridge a short distance away make for a colorful composition and show off the bridge in a different way. Ray has published some photography books and calendars, so you may enjoy seeing more of his work. www.shepherdtoo.org/press/

1st Place. Mary Georgeson, Trussville, AL "Six Horse Power" Mary took this photo on a visit to Lancaster in October. The farmer and his horses were pulling the "honey-wagon" along Ronks Road. We especially liked the colors and contrasts in this autumn scene.



1st Place. Mary Georgeson, Trussville, AL "Six Horse Power"

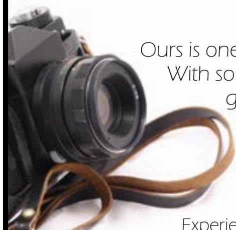


3rd Place. Sue Barton, Williamsburg, VA "Milking Time"

Deadline: **December 31, 2017**

Calling All Photographers!

2017 Amish Country News Photo Contest



Ours is one of the most photographed areas in the world. With so much beauty and variety around us, it's no wonder! Think you've got a great photo? Send it to us! The winner recieves free tour and attraction tickets. In addition, you will see your photo in the pages of Amish Country News! Other prizes will also go to the first, second, and third runners-up. They will be judged on quality, color, subject matter, etc.

All submitted photos become the property of Amish Country News and the Amish Experience. Photos may also be used in upcoming issues, in other publications, and/or for other promotional purposes. Keep in mind that these photos are for publication, cannot be returned, and should depict a scene, aspect, event, or activity typical to Lancaster or the Pennsylvania Dutch Country region.

We accept photos via email, and request no more than 10 photos by the same person be submitted, Each photo submitted should contain your name, address, phone and email address. Any details on the location, date, or subject matter of the photograph should also be included.

To enter, send 8x10 photos at high resolution (300 dpi) and in .jpg format to: editor@amishnews.com (Please put "2017 photo contest" in the subject line)

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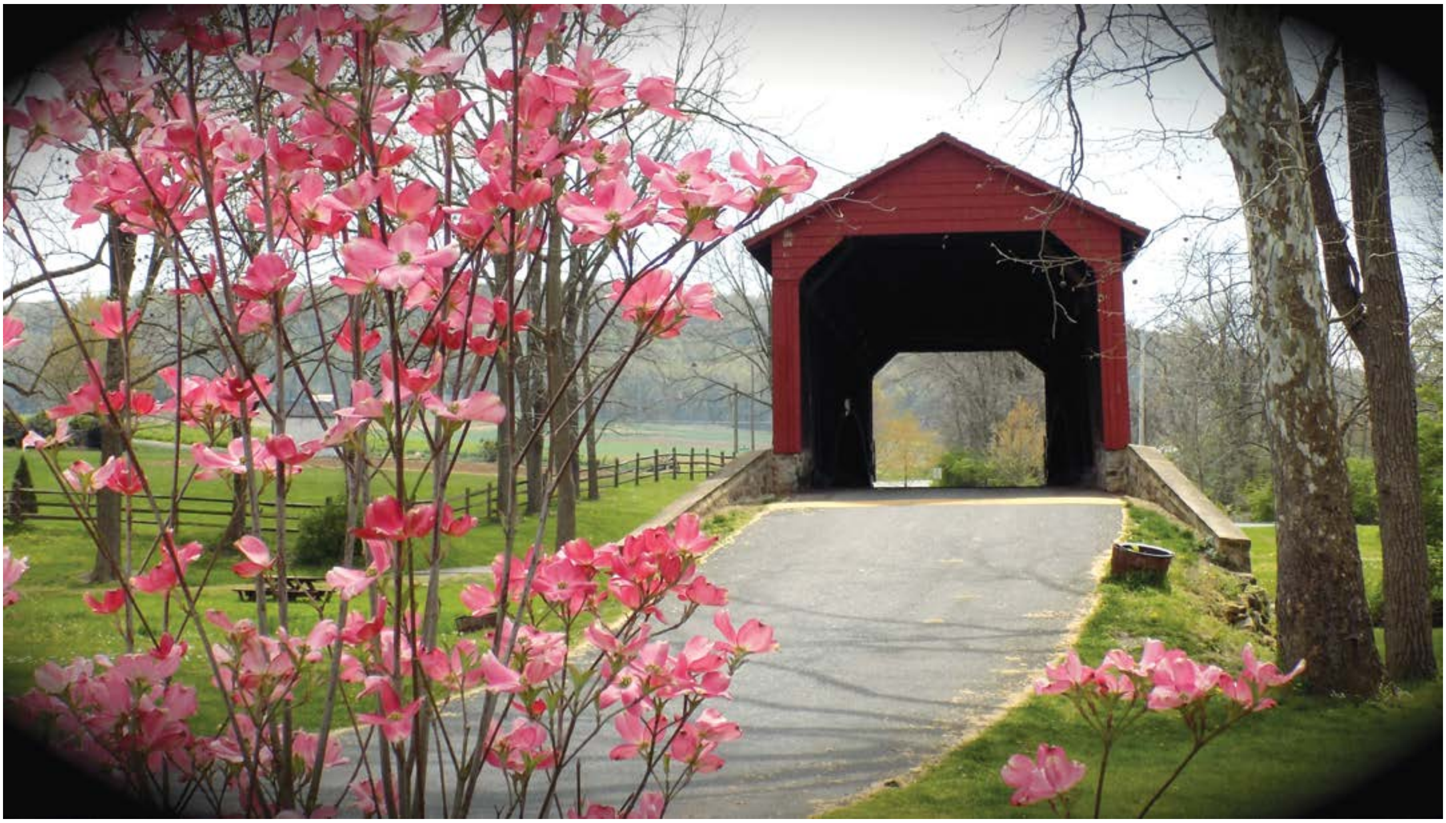


Grand Prize. Ray Smecker, Churchtown, PA "Spring at the Bridge"

2nd Place. Wayne Fitzgerald, Oxford, PA "Horseback in the Snow" You don't see Amish riding horseback too often, but in a heavy snow, it can be a good way to get around. "The picture was taken of our neighbor from our front porch the day after a heavy snow storm." It would be fun to speculate on what this mission on horseback was all about.

3rd Place. Sue Barton, Williamsburg, VA "Milking Time" Sometimes the cows do need to cross the road between the barn and the pasture. We'll let Sue describe the scene… "At the end of a perfect day, we were returning to our motel when we came upon an unusual traffic stop on Old Philadelphia Pike near Intercourse. My husband and I visit this area at least once a year for some R&R. It's so peaceful!"

Honorable Mention. Michele Peffer, Quakertown, PA "Framed Chickens"

2nd Place. Wayne Fitzgerald, Oxford, PA "Horseback in the Snow"

Honorable Mention. Michele Peffer, Quakertown, PA "Framed Chickens" We see chickens and farm animals every day here, but something about the colors and close-up behind the fence made for a photo we really enjoyed. Michele told us, "My husband and I visit Lancaster a few times per year. We enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and the old world charm. The photo was taken along the countryside while we were driving on May 9th, as that was our visit for my husband's birthday."

Congratulations to everyone. We encourage you to enter your photos for our 2017 contest. Thanks to all who entered in this year's contest and to those who have participated in the past. Yes, you may win more than once!

Gettysburg – A Divided Country's Turning Point

by Brad Igou

We could probably make a strong argument that when people think of Pennsylvania, they primarily think of four destinations, all just a short drive from Amish Country. The other three are, of course, Philadelphia, Hershey, and Gettysburg.

Readers will immediately identify nearby Gettysburg with the Civil War. Here are a few quick facts… Between July 1-3, 1863, Maj. Gen. George Meade's Union Army defeated attacks by Gen. Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army, ending Lee's attempt to invade the North. Often described as the turning point in the war, this was the bloodiest battle, with the largest number of casualties. Not long after the battle, President Lincoln came to the cemetery to give what is arguably the most famous American speech, the Gettysburg Address.

Today, visitors are fortunate to have so many excellent resources available to really gain an in-depth understanding of those fateful days, and see where those events actually took place, as they walk this "Hallowed Ground."

The place to begin is the Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center. Gone are the days of the "Electric Map" and the somewhat musty displays. Now this spectacular center houses a state-of-the-art museum with fascinating artifacts, interactive displays, and information not only about the big events, but also the many individual stories of those involved in the struggle.

Then a film narrated by Morgan Freeman sets the stage for viewing the truly amazing Cyclorama, a 360-degree painting of Picket's Charge that was completed a few years after the battle itself. Recently restored and preserved, this 4-story high, longer-than-a-football-field mural places you in the center of the battle.

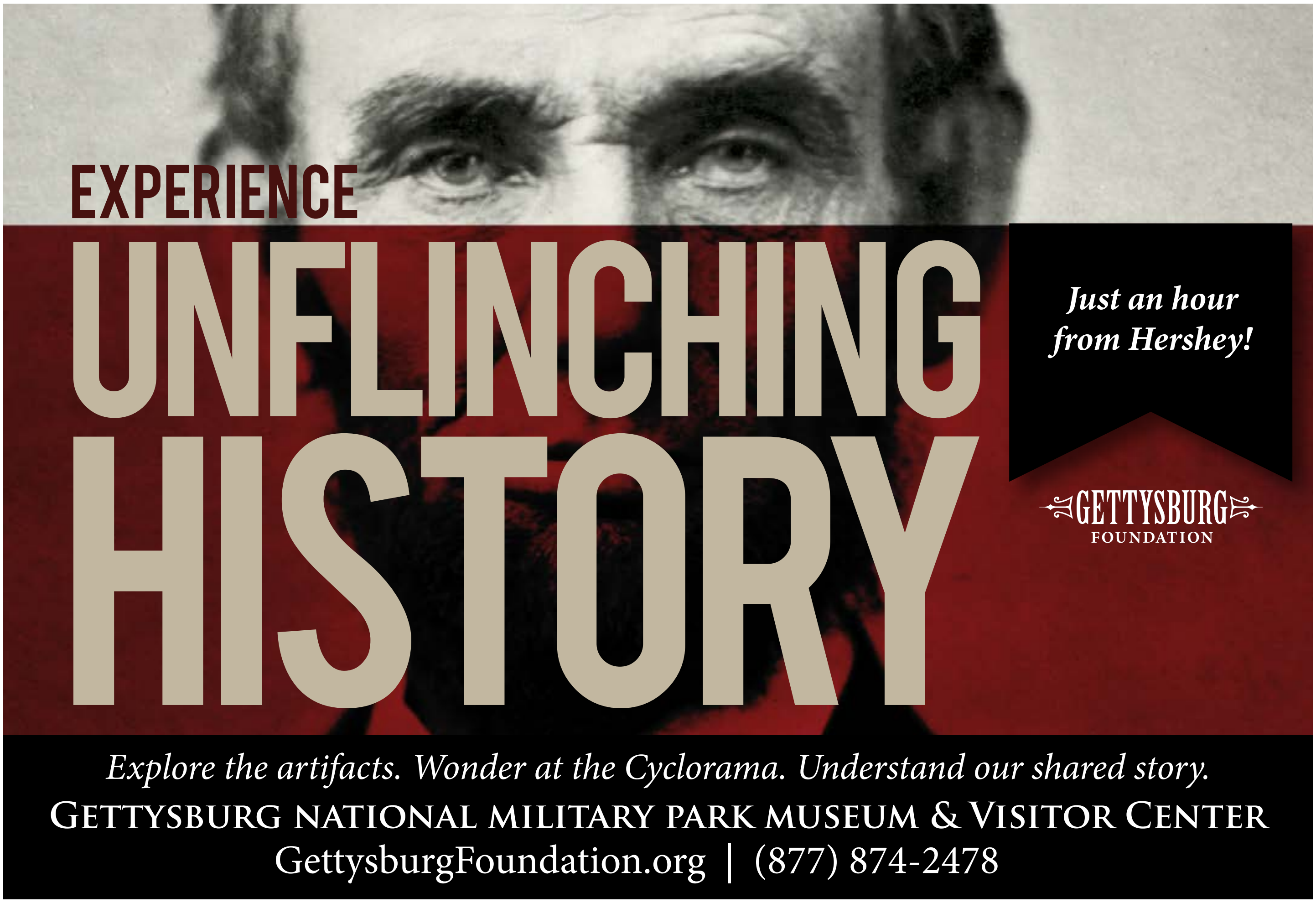
Armed with this historical background, you are now ready for a tour of the battlefield itself, and there are various options, from having a licensed guide, to driving around on your own, to taking a bus tour. There is a very reasonably priced option that includes the museum, cyclorama, and bus tour in a combination ticket.

But just as Lancaster is much more than just Amish Country, Gettysburg offers a variety of attractions beyond the battlefield. The town square is delightful, with many other historic buildings, lodging, shops, theater, and restaurants, all good spots to unwind after a day of sightseeing. You might even want to do a Ghost Tour in the evening.

Many visitors are not familiar with the nearby Eisenhower National Historic Site, the home and farm of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower. This was his weekend retreat and a meeting place for world leaders, a much needed respite from Washington, and a backdrop for efforts to reduce Cold War tensions.

You'll want to plan some time for other pursuits, whether that be outlet shopping, visiting wineries, or various outdoor activities. And you may want to check out some of the events you might not associate with Gettysburg --- a beer festival, bike week, apple harvest festival, and even Gettysburg Rocks.

So be sure to plan a visit to Gettysburg and make this small Pennsylvania town that changed the course of history a part of your vacation battle plan.



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Amish Quilters Appreciate Witmer Quilt Shop

By Clinton Martin

Witmer Quilts has many fine mini quilts, suitable for wall-hanging.

Witmer Quilt Shop is not a fabric shop where quilters go to buy needles, thread, yarn, and wool. Witmer Quilt Shop is where locals and in-the-know visitors go to find the finished product – after all the stitching, backing, piecing and crafting are done!

From authentic antique Amish quilts (dating to the pre-Civil War era) to modern and contemporary handmade designs, Witmer Quilt Shop displays hundreds of beautiful quilts, from crib-sized to king-sized. Colorful pillows and wall-hangings add to the colorful wonder of this delightful shop.

Custom orders are welcome, and convenient shipping is available for visitors who can't tote their treasured quilt home with them.

Visit Witmer Quilt Shop today and explore the world of quilts located at 1076 W. Main St (Route 23), New Holland PA. Hours are 8:00am-8:00pm on Mondays and Fridays, 8:00am-6:00pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. The shop is closed Wednesdays and Sundays. Call 717-656-9526.

Rise and Shine! And marvel at the intricate detail of stitching in this sunny quilt.

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Publisher's Message

This Mud is Not For Sale

by Brad Igou

Mud sales in Amish Country are legitimately "legendary," and I do not use that word lightly. For the uninitiated, this is not a sale where one can purchase various varieties of mud for the home or garden. These are the sales held by local volunteer fire companies to raise money to support their efforts.

Volunteer fire companies are, for me, some of the true treasures of our rural community, a tradition steeped in Colonial American history. Ben Franklin was "a volunteer firefighter who at age 30 founded Philadelphia's first fire department." In rural areas located far from the city, it was important to have local people who could respond to a fire quickly.

Here in Lancaster County, mud sales get their name from the fact that many take place in the early Spring when the ground is often starting to thaw. Since they tend to be held in fields or unpaved areas, all those people walking around make the ground muddy. You never want to go to these without wearing boots.

I remember going to an especially muddy mud sale in Gordonville a few years ago. Some Amish boys were walking through the deep mud and one boy lifted his foot to make the next step forward only to find his boot stuck in the mud behind him. There, certainly not a stick in the mud, he was trying to maintain his balance, turn around, and get his white-stockinged foot back into the boot!

With so many Plain people involved as volunteers, mud sales are also a great way to mingle unobtrusively. The range of activity is broad indeed. At Gordonville, in one tent horses are being auctioned off. Another auctioneer moves around the fields and tents taking bids on everything from farm equipment to buggies to household items. In the fire hall, beautiful handmade quilts are on the auction block, with bidding largely by out-of-towners. Inside and outside, all kinds of foods are for sale. So this is also an opportunity to sample some popular local goodies.

I have a funny mud sale story. We were waiting in line to buy hot dogs. When we got to the window, my friend ordered three hot dogs. The Amishman looked at her and said "dry dogs?" My friend assumed that was to confirm she wanted no fixings on the hot dogs, which in this case meant sauerkraut. She simply answered no, which seemed to cause confusion behind the counter.

As it turned out, the Amishman forgot who he was talking to and was using the German word for three, which is "drei," to confirm her order. Everyone had a good laugh, and even today I joke with my friend about her preference for "dry dogs."

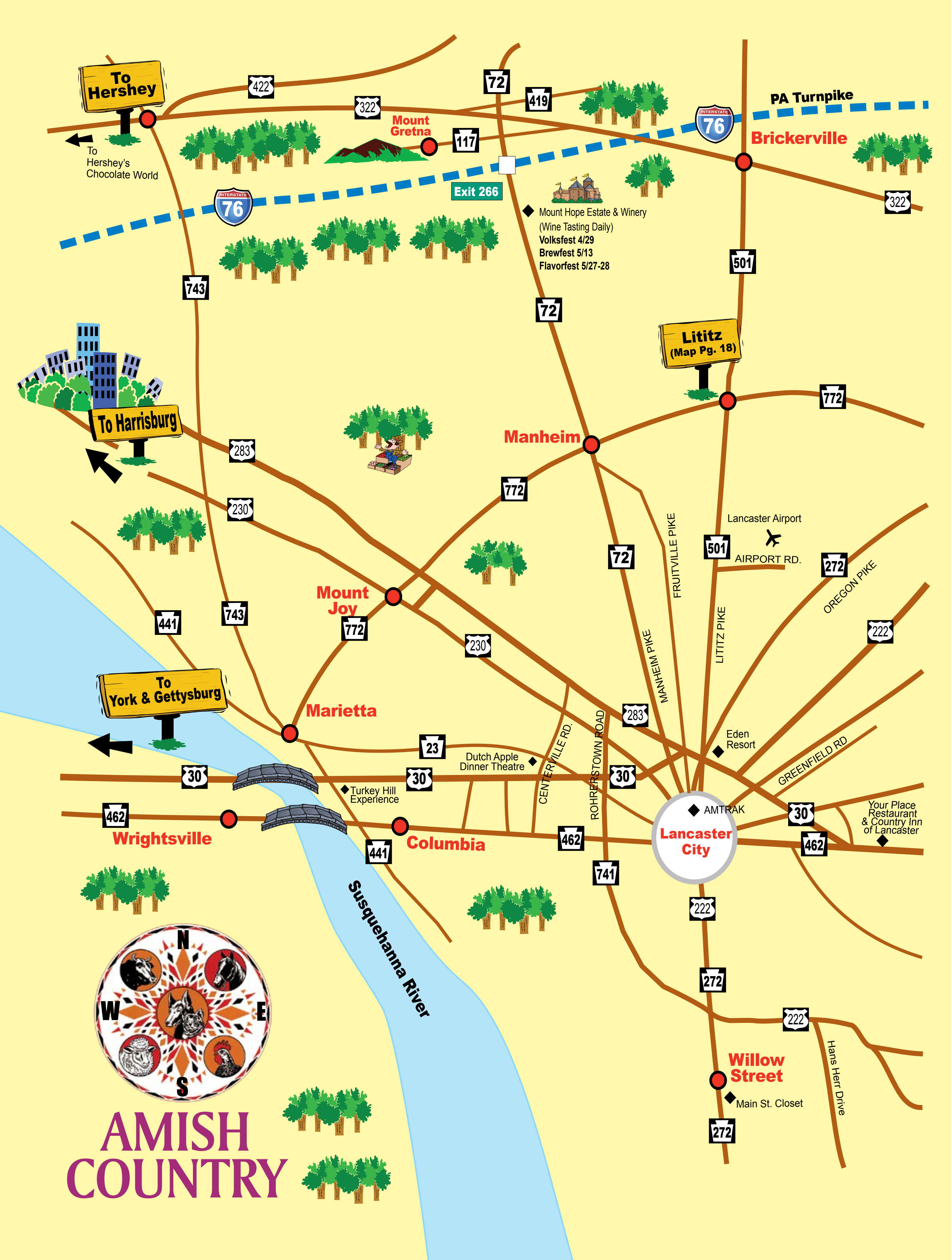
There are so many sights at a mud sale, and each sale is different. To be sure, you will always observe a sea of Amish hats where buggies and farm equipment are featured. It's also a popular event where teens and adults meet, socialize, catch up on things, and maybe even gossip.

If you are lucky, you might even catch an impromptu game of corner ball, basically our local version of dodgeball, but for just four players in tight quarters. It requires agility and fast moves not to get hit by the small, hard ball. Ouch!

Many mud sales attract huge crowds, so be prepared to park a distance away and be shuttled in or walk. And don't forget to dress warmly… and be sure to wear your boots!

You can find dates and locations for over 20 mud sales being held throughout 2017 at www.discoverlancaster.com.

Buggies to be auctioned off at Gordonville mud sale. Photo by Kurt Glenn. "Pennsylvania Dutch Soup."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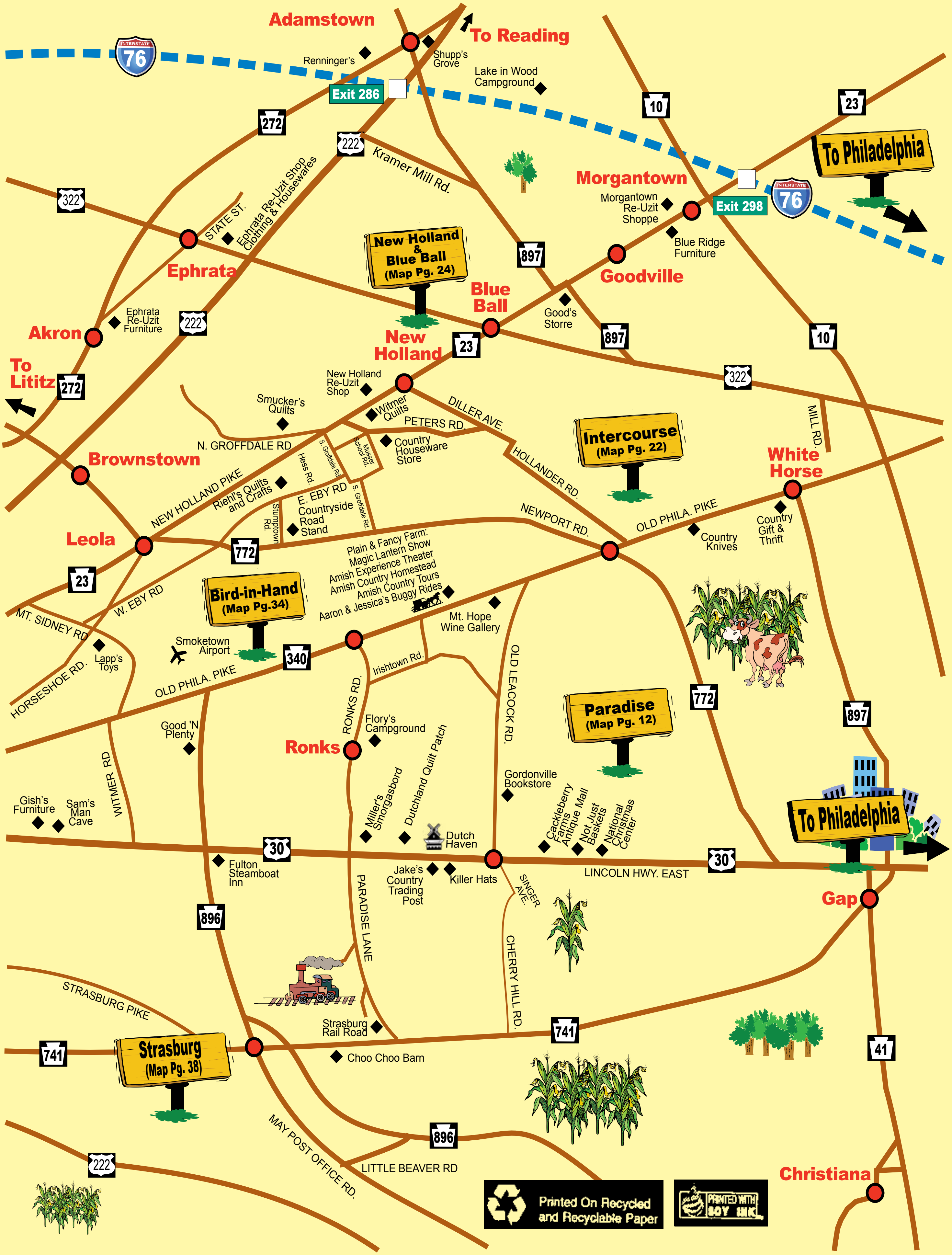
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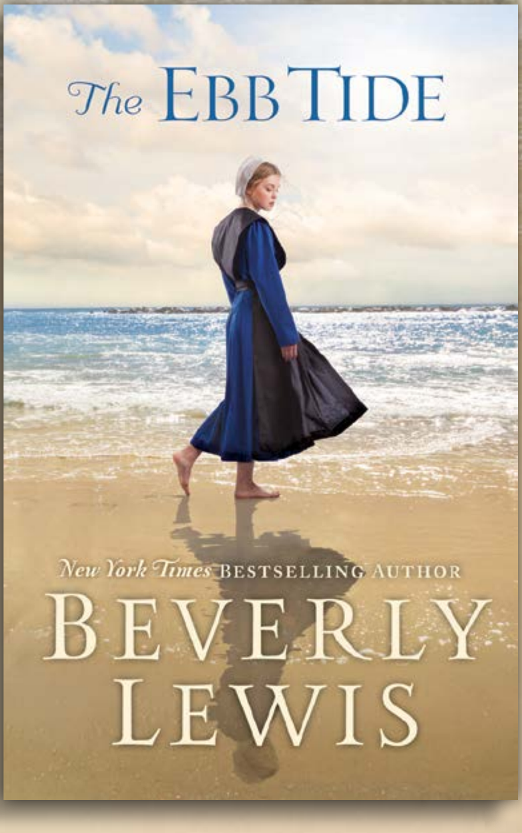

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